

GENUINE
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MEMOIRS

Of the Celebrated

Miss MARIA BROWN.

Exhibiting

The LIFE of a COURTEZAN in the
most Fashionable SCENES of DISSIPATION.

Published by the Author of a WOMAN of PLEASURE.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

Under how hard a fate are women born?
Prais'd to their ruin, or expos'd to scorn.
If they want beauty, they of love despair,
And are besieg'd like frontier towns, if fair.

Rowe.

LONDON:

Printed for I. ALLCOCK, near St. Paul's.
MDCCLXVI.



C O N T E N T S.

CHAP. I. Some account of Miss Brown's family and connections. The prejudices of education exemplified. Is destined for a convent. Sets out for Liverpool to embark for France, F

CHAP. II. Some account of Maria's fellow-travellers, the conversation that ensues, wherein Mr. Brown takes so great and zealous a part. Its salutary effects upon Maria, 6

CHAP. III. Maria's arrival at Liverpool; embarks for Calais. Her acquaintance with miss Fleetwood. This young lady's story, 9

CHAP. IV. Arrive at Calais, the design Maria has of returning to England without landing; is prevailed upon to lay it aside. An uncommon adventure, and its consequences, 18

CHAP. V. Arrive at Douay. Their reception at the convent. The behaviour of the father-confessor to miss Fleetwood and Maria. An unfortunate discovery in the person of a nun, 25

C O N T E N T S.

CHAP. VI. Maria is called over to England upon the death of her father. The affectionate leave she takes of miss Fleetwood. Arrives in London. Her behaviour at the play. The patrimony she receives. An invitation from her mother. The dangerous insinuation of her aunt, 31

CHAP. VII. Maria's progress in the beau monde. A description of her person. Her first conquest, with a curious epistle. Her behaviour thereupon, and her aunt's judicious observations. 37

CHAP. VIII. A modern character in the person of Dorimont. His passions and afflictions. Maria is rivalled by a new-fashioned negligee, 43

CHAP. IX. Maria's revenge upon Dorimont—her triumph. Her aunt's remonstrances, with some small insight into the characters of captain T. and Sir Thomas B. 47

CHAP. X. Some account of Maria's new lover. The advances he makes and her behaviour thereupon. A dialogue of courtship very proper to be read by all young ladies, 53

CHAP.

C O N T E N T S.

CHAP. XI. The rupture between Maria and Mr. Fitzherbert, his letter upon the occasion, their reconciliation, the approach of their nuptials, and the preparation she makes, 59

CHAP. XII. She is persuaded against her inclination to go with Fitzherbert to a ball—takes her to a tavern near Soho—they wait for the company, who never come—repeated expedients are used to prevail upon her to stay—He puts laudanum in her liquor, and deflowers her of her virginity, 64

CHAP. XIII. Maria is prevailed upon to acquiesce in his intreaties, by the solemn promises he makes of marriage. Her disappointment, 70

CHAP. XIV. A letter she receives from Fitzherbert—her indignation is fired at it—resolves to despise and forget him—re-appears in public—a discovery, which blasts all her former expectations—her aunt's behaviour upon the occasion, 75

CHAP. XV. Her aunt's ingratitude highly exemplified. The step Maria is obliged to take, 79

CHAP.

C O N T E N T S.

- CHAP. XVI. Acquaints her landlady with her situation and distress—who procures her a ticket for the lying-in-hospital—is delivered there—her child dies—Her acquaintance with Mrs. Freemantle, and her affecting story, 83.
- CHAP. XVII. Some reflections upon the erroneous custom of the world, illustrated with the sketch of a few modern characters drawn from real life, 89
- CHAP. XVIII. Mrs. Freeman's friendship to Maria; recommends her to lady Bentley. Their journey, 95
- CHAP. XIX. Arrive at Paris. The impositions that are attempted to be put upon lady Bentley detected by Maria. A lively description of the manner of an English lady of fashion passing her time at Paris, 99
- CHAP. XX. A jaunt to Versailles, with a short account of that celebrated place. An accident which terminates in Maria's dismissal from lady Bentley's service, 103
- CHAP. XXI. The picture of a finished coquette; the advances Fitzherbert makes to her, and the success of the addresses which

C O N T E N T S.

which he pays to her. An unexpected
blow at the crisis of his fate, 107

CHAP. XXII. The treatment she meets
with from Madam la Rosiere. The
step she takes in consequence. Renews
her acquaintance with an Irish officer's
widow. The imposition that is practis-
ed upon her, and the distress wherein it
terminates, 112

CHAP. XXIII. The acquaintance miss
Brown makes in the Thuilleries; their
conversation, which produces a closer
connection. Goes home with her be-
nefactress. Some account of her board-
ers, and their behaviour. An uncom-
mon conflict, 119

CHAP. XXIV. Maria meets unexpected-
ly with an old acquaintance, who proves
to be mademoiselle Fenelon. Her ad-
ventures with father Jaquel in Holland
and England, 124

CHAP. XXV. Continuation of mademoi-
selle Fenelon's story. The infamous
part monsieur Martin begins to act. A
scandalous though common character in
the person of madam la Touche, 130

CHAP.

C O N T E N T S.

CHAP. XXVI. Conclusion of mademoi-
selle Fenelon's story, 137

CHAP. XXVII. Some insight into Maria's
present situation. A descriptive portrait
of a female gladiating repast, done from
the life, 145

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Miss MARIA BROWN.

CHAP. I.

Some account of Miss Brown's family and connections. The prejudices of education exemplified. Is destined for a convent. Sets out for Liverpool to embark for France.

AS the reader is not to consider this performance in the light of a novel or a romance, but the real adventures of a person who has made some noise in the gay world; so he must not be surprised if he meets with nothing in these sheets bordering upon the marvellous or surprising. The incidents of my life are not much out of the common road of female seduction, forwarded by the errors of a mistaken genteel education; and I shall endeavour at a

VOL. I.

B

style

style suitable to a subject that has nothing but plain truth and simple nature to recommend it.

Though the name of Brown being so general may carry the air of a fictitious one, it was certainly my family-name, and is a pretty antient one in Lancashire, which was the place of my nativity. My father enjoyed a small patrimony in this country, which was the usual place of his residence. He was of the Romish persuasion, and was a great stickler for religion, which has been the means of preventing his uncle, who had a place under the government, and some influence at court, assisting him with his protection, which might have been greatly to his interest.

I had two brothers older than myself; but as I was an only daughter, I was the darling both of my father and mother, but particularly the latter, who was one of those good-natured inoffensive women that do every thing for the sake of ease and quietness; so that I had my will upon every occasion: and my brothers tyrannized over her so much by her condescension, and hiding their boyish faults from their father, that we all three stood a very fair chance of being spoilt children.

Though

Though my father, by his religion, which he made his two sons follow, was precluded all hopes of providing for them by any places under the government or in the army, and though his fortune, when divided, could never be sufficient to maintain us all genteelly ; yet possessed so much family pride that he could not prevail upon himself to put them out to any trade ; so that after they had attained as much knowledge as the grammar-school could afford, they were sent abroad to complete their studies in a foreign seminary.

My destination was nearly the same ; for, having attained my eleventh year, and acquired as much learning as our country boarding-schools could communicate, I was transported to Douay, to complete my education, improve my morals, and establish me more firmly in the principles of my religion.

A priest who lived in our family, and served for our chaplain and general confessor, took care to keep up the superstition which I and my brothers had seemingly naturally imbibed : he told us it was a greater sin to eat meat on a Friday, than to be guilty of theft, or even murder ; and I must acknowledge he so far operated up-

on my weak mind, that I looked with a kind of horror upon flesh that day; and it was with some difficulty I could reconcile myself to it the next. I was made to believe that my salvation in a great measure depended upon my kissing a piece of wood in the shape of a cross. These, and a thousand absurdities of the like nature, appeared to me of the utmost religious consequence, and I therefore considered them with the highest veneration. Whether our confessor really believed what he taught, or assumed so much hypocrisy only to impose upon us, I will not pretend to determine; but it must be acknowledged, his life was one perpetual round of abstemiousness: he eat very moderately, drank still more sparingly, was not addicted to scandal, and was esteemed very charitable: his character, therefore, more strongly enforced his tenets than even his precepts, and he was looked upon with so much deference in our neighbourhood, that every one thought it a blessing to be in company with Mr. Fisher. Such then was the general character of the superintendant of our souls, who very properly prepared me for my future reclusive life.

I had never yet been absent from my
mother

mother one night ; for though I had learnt writing, accompts, with dancing, and a little French, at a boarding-school in our town, I had only been what is called a day-scholar ; so that when the time approached of my departure for Liverpool, where I was to take shipping for Calais, the thoughts of leaving my mother almost distracted me, and her concern was visibly as great : but when the hour came of our taking leave, I thought my heart would have burst. Words could find no utterance, I hung round her neck, and we mingled our tears together. At length, however, she recovered herself enough to say, “ My dear Polly, we must part, but I hope not for ever ; it is for the good of both your soul and body ; and tho’ it is worse than death to me to let you go, I must not oppose what is so much for your advantage. Treasure up the precepts of that holy man Mr. Fisher, and upon every occasion pray for your father and mother, Tommy and Charles.” Here a flood of tears stopt her saying any more ; and my father very opportunely came to our relief, summoning me to repair to the coach, which, he said, had been waiting for me near half an hour. He took me by the hand, and,

without inquiring the cause of our grief, which he very well knew, he conducted me to the coach, whilst I remained quite insensible to every object about me.

C H A P. II.

Some Account of Maria's fellow-travellers.

The conversation that ensues, wherein Mr. Brown takes so great and zealous a part. Its salutary effects upon Maria.

I Had gone some miles before I ever once thought of considering my fellow-travellers. My father, who was by my side, frequently desired me to dry up my tears, and not give way so much to grief; but I found this vent the only solace that was left me, and it would have been cruel to have denied me the small consolation, which this indulgence of my sorrow afforded. The rivulets of misery seemed at length to have dried their springs; and as they had before spontaneously flowed, they now in the same manner stopped their course, and I was able to make use of my visual orbs for their destined vocation.

Our company consisted of two French prisoners who had been set at liberty by the treaty

treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, a smuggler from the Isle of Man, and one of the actors belonging to the strolling company at Liverpool. They soon discovered their occupations by their conversation: the French officers very ingenuously acknowledged the civil and generous treatment they had met with in England, where they owned they had fared better, though they had been prisoners, than if they had been in actual service in their own country. The contraband trader agreed with the Frenchmen, that England was one of the most hospitable countries under the sun, and would be in every sense the best, if it was not for custom-house officers and excisemen, who were the pest of society, and the bane of all commerce. As to the actor, he complained loudly of the tyranny of managers, and the want of discernment in auditors, who let merit go unrewarded, whilst they lavished their money upon foreign singers, dancers, and harlequins.

My eyes and ears were the only organs capable of performing their office: as to my tongue, my spirits were by far too much depressed for me to attempt exercising it, and the only articulate sound I was capable of expressing, was *high ho!*

which frequently escaped from me, and which, with my former tears, had thrown my father into almost as melancholy a mood as myself, and had not the topic veered to religion, he would have been as little emulous as myself of joining in it. But this was the diapason of all his argument, of all his reasoning; it was impossible to touch this key without attuning his pipe, to throw in that discord so necessary to constitute harmony. No sooner had the illegal trader given his sentiments upon the significance of custom-house oaths, than Mr. Brown immediately entered upon the subject, and proved, by very learned and theological arguments, that a man must be irretrievably damned who was guilty of the crime of perjury. No one had the audacity to oppose this opinion directly; but the smuggler put an interrogation to Mr. Brown, which somewhat disconcerted him, as he was not prepared with an answer: "Whether there were as many hells as there were crimes? If not," continued the querist, "all punishments are alike, and there is no justice in the decree." This was a bold assertion in the presence of my father, and he called forth all his zeal, and no small share of superstition, to prove that

that there were but two hells, or rather one and a half, as purgatory could not be looked upon as a complete state of damnation. The primitive fathers, and many modern theological writers, were overhauled to support his doctrine, which was as soporific as it was orthodox, and lulled me to a more gentle and salutary sleep than I had experienced for some days.

C H A P. III.

Maria's arrival at Liverpool; embarks for Calais. Her meditations. Her acquaintance with Miss Fleetwood. This young Lady's story.

MY slumbers were not in the least interrupted till we arrived at Liverpool, and we stopped at the inn, where I was to take a farewell-supper with my father. The ship was ready to sail the next morning; and, after a very affectionate scene that passed between Mr. Brown and myself, I went on board.

A fresh gale sprung up, and in about three hours we were almost out of sight of land, but to the last my fond eyes stole a look at Albion's cliffs. "Farewel to my native shore, relations, friends, all that's

“ dear, perhaps for ever !” A flood of tears burst upon the conclusion of this soliloquy, which closed the scene of all but the watery element ; and now succeeded such a qualm of stomach, as entirely diverted my thoughts from every thing but present relief, which I, in some measure, obtained, by the customary operation of sea-sickness ; and a few hours after I had such an eager appetite, that having found in the cabin some ship-beef, I made the most hearty and most delicious regale I ever had in my life.

My spirits being by these means somewhat recruited, I began to consider my situation in a more favourable point of light than I had hitherto looked upon it, and my affliction was greatly alleviated by finding a young lady on board, who was destined for the like station, and the same convent as myself ; so true it is that a companion in affliction diminishes our sorrows. We soon entered into familiar chat, when she acquainted me with her family and connections, and the cause of her being sent abroad.

“ My dear, said she, you most likely have
 “ heard of my family and friends. My
 “ name is Juliana Fleetwood ; my father
 “ lives within a few miles of Lancaster ; he
 “ has

“ has a patrimonial estate of about two
 “ thousand a year, and I am his only
 “ daughter. My mother died about four
 “ years ago, and I have been under the
 “ care of a distant female relation ever
 “ since. This cousin of mine was not
 “ without her foibles, and perhaps the
 “ most predominant one she had was that
 “ of drinking. As I had it in my power
 “ to promote her indulging herself in this
 “ respect, so she, in return, gave me all the
 “ liberty of conscience and action I could
 “ desire. I was without any sort of con-
 “ straint, when I attained that age that de-
 “ termined I was a woman. I had read
 “ love-stories, and little romances, which
 “ our maids furnished me with. In read-
 “ ing Pamela, I was greatly pleased to find
 “ that she was at last made happy; and this
 “ event so strongly operated upon my
 “ mind, that from this moment I looked
 “ upon all distinction of birth and fortune
 “ as no sort of impediment to two persons
 “ being united, whose affections were mu-
 “ tual. With these romances in my head,
 “ and favourable dispositions in my heart,
 “ our house was more like a nunnery than
 “ a gentleman’s country-seat; and I had
 “ never yet set my eyes upon any thing that
 was

“ was called a gentleman in our neigh-
 “ bourhood, except a country-squire, who
 “ was a great sportsman, and who more re-
 “ sembled his dogs and horses than a ra-
 “ tional creature. He could talk of no-
 “ thing but leaping five-bar gates, being in
 “ at the death, laying the odds, and win-
 “ ning of plates : this was conversation I
 “ had no sort of relish for, and could not
 “ help concluding, that if gentlemen talked
 “ in the same strain, and upon the same
 “ subjects, they had little reason to pique
 “ themselves upon their birth and educa-
 “ tion. At the same time that I was draw-
 “ ing these no very favourable conclusions
 “ upon the score of gentility, I could not
 “ help making a comparison between the
 “ squire and William, a young footman
 “ that had been in our family for some
 “ years. Methought that his manners were
 “ more polished, and his conversation,
 “ which I frequently overheard with the
 “ maids, more rational, than the squire’s,
 “ and with respect to his person all compa-
 “ rison was destroyed. The squire was
 “ clumsy, ungenteel, purblind, and pock-
 “ frecken ; whereas William’s face was
 “ handsome, his person tall and well-made,
 “ and his deportment agreeable : upon the
 “ whole,

“ whole, methought nature never intended
 “ such wide distinctions as my father was
 “ continually making between people of fa-
 “ shion and the laborious part of mankind.

“ I had for some time observed, that
 “ William’s peculiar study was to endea-
 “ vour at anticipating all my orders ; he
 “ guessed by my motions what I seemed
 “ desirous of, and scarce ever gave me an
 “ opportunity to ask for a thing. Such at-
 “ tention on his part, I must acknowledge,
 “ attracted my observation more than
 “ usual, and I could not help frequently
 “ casting a glance to see with what readi-
 “ ness he caught my looks, and yet our
 “ eyes scarce ever met, but what I could
 “ perceive a sort of confusion in his coun-
 “ tenance.

“ He was one afternoon waiting upon
 “ me whilst I was drinking tea, all alone,
 “ in our summer-house, at the end of the
 “ garden ; when giving him a nod to fill
 “ the pot, he did it, uttering such a sigh,
 “ that I could not help jocosely asking him,
 “ *Sure, Will, you’re not in love ?* I had not
 “ completely uttered the words, till his
 “ hand shook to that degree that he poured
 “ some water on my hand, which scalded
 “ me. He was so greatly affected with
 “ what

“ what he had done, that he burst into
 “ tears, which moved me so much, that,
 “ for the present, I forgot the acute pain
 “ that I felt from the boiling water, and I
 “ found myself highly interested in con-
 “ soling him, by assuring him that the burn
 “ was not great, and that he need not give
 “ way so much to his grief upon the occa-
 “ sion.

“ Upon my affording him some consola-
 “ tion, he dried up his tears, but gave me
 “ such a look as it is impossible for me to
 “ describe. Young and ignorant as I was
 “ in the language of the eyes, methought I
 “ read every thing that the most tender,
 “ the most sensible sentiments could ex-
 “ press.

“ From this moment I was never easy
 “ but when Will was waiting or attending
 “ upon me ; and I never had so much plea-
 “ sure, as when I could contemplate his
 “ person, without being observed by any
 “ one. I discovered charms in him that I
 “ had before slightly passed over ; his face
 “ appeared to me that of a perfect Adonis ;
 “ Cupids lay in ambush in every ringlet of
 “ his flowing chesnut-hair ; his whole per-
 “ son seemed to be a model for statuaries
 “ and painters ! I longed for an opportunity

“ of

“ of saying to him something upon the
 “ score of love, and would freely have un-
 “ dergone the pain of having my fingers
 “ scalded again, to have had so favourable
 “ an occasion of entering upon the subject.

“ I contrived to drink tea alone in the
 “ same place a few days after ; but I was
 “ no longer able to command those looks,
 “ the meaning of which he used so quickly
 “ to catch ; and when I would have given
 “ him a command, I could utter nothing
 “ but a sigh : in fine, there was not a word
 “ passed upon this occasion, but complete
 “ confusion on both sides, without either
 “ of us having dared to venture a look at
 “ each other.

“ The next morning I found upon my
 “ dressing-table a letter, which I opened
 “ with rapture. I believe I have it in my
 “ pocket, and will read it to you.

“ Oh ! thou divine creature,

“ What can be the reason I am so miser-
 “ able and you so perplexed ? Surely there
 “ can be no sympathy in souls which for-
 “ tune has placed at so great a distance. I
 “ dare not venture to think that you could
 “ throw away a thought upon such a
 “ wretch as me ! No, it is impossible ; I
 “ must

“ must fly to some remote corner of the
 “ earth, and there forget there is such a
 “ divine being as the incomparable Juliana.
 “ Why then do I pretend to trouble with
 “ my impertinence and folly so much ex-
 “ cellence, when it would be the highest
 “ presumption in me to say, I was her
 “ most abject slave,

“ *William Franklin.*”

“ It is impossible to express what satis-
 “ faction I received in perusing these lines.
 “ I read them over and over, and every
 “ time I thought I discovered fresh beau-
 “ ties and more meaning. I was, however,
 “ greatly perplexed to know what step I
 “ should take; for a young lady to write to
 “ a man, appeared to me highly criminal,
 “ and especially an answer to such a letter
 “ as this; yet I found my heart strongly
 “ pleaded for the use of pen and paper,
 “ and I should have readily submitted to
 “ its dictates, had I known what to say.

“ I was in this perplexity when he was
 “ ordered to call me to breakfast. He
 “ fell upon his knees, and begged I would
 “ forgive him the imprudence he had been
 “ guilty of. Saying this, however, he in-
 “ sensibly got hold of my hand, and bathed

“ it

“ it with his tears ; nor could I find the
 “ least inclination to withdraw it from him.

“ All explanations now became super-
 “ fluous, and we availed ourselves of every
 “ opportunity of being together, when we
 “ gave each other the strongest assurances
 “ of our mutual passion.

“ We had never yet been discovered,
 “ for my gouvernante was generally half
 “ the day so well employed with her cor-
 “ dial friends, that she never gave us any
 “ interruption ; and as to the maids, I con-
 “ trived always to find them such employ-
 “ ment at some opposite parts of the house,
 “ that our tête-a-tête parties had never yet
 “ been broke in upon. In one of these un-
 “ interrupted conversations we took the
 “ resolution of setting off post for London,
 “ in order to be married at May Fair
 “ chapel.

“ My father was at this time at Bath,
 “ and every thing promised fair for the ex-
 “ ecution of our project. I had packed up
 “ what cloaths I thought necessary for our
 “ journey, and William had provided a
 “ post-chaise at Manchester, whither he
 “ took me behind him upon one of my fa-
 “ ther's horses.

“ But though we succeeded thus far, our
 “ evil

“evil genius soon interfered, we met the
 “squire upon the road. His jealousy was
 “roused at perceiving us, as he had pro-
 “fessed himself one of my admirers: he
 “sent an express to my father, and when
 “we got out of the chaise at Hyde-park-
 “corner, we found ourselves surrounded
 “with constables. To shorten this disagree-
 “able part of my narrative, I was wrested
 “from the only man I ever loved, brought
 “back to my father’s, when the alternative
 “proposal was made me, of either giving
 “my hand to the squire, or sequestering
 “myself from the world in a nunnery.
 “You see the resolution I have made, and
 “I doubt not have merited thereby your
 “approbation.”

C H A P. IV.

Arrive at Calais, the design Maria has of
 returning to England without landing;
 is prevailed upon to lay it aside. An
 uncommon adventure, and its conse-
 quences.

MY heart, as yet a stranger to the ten-
 der passion, felt some emotions upon
 the relation of Miss Fleetwood’s story; and
 though I had scarce attained my twelfth
 year,

year, I began to think I was going to act a very unnatural part in secluding myself from the world, and particularly from that part of the creation who alone I began to imagine could confer real felicity.

“ Ay, my dear Juliana, said I, what a
 “ cruel tyranny are parents allowed to ex-
 “ ercise towards us, according to their
 “ whims and caprices, without consulting
 “ our sentiments and dispositions! You
 “ might have been more happy with your
 “ dear Billy, than if you had wedded an
 “ emperor ; titles and grandeur do not con-
 “ fer felicity, or those who possess them
 “ would not complain.”

A flood of tears gave testimony of the concurrence of her sentiments with mine ; she was too deeply afflicted with the relation of her story, and my comment, to be able to answer me with words ; but I perfectly understood her silent expression by my own feeling.

Whilst we were thus employed, we unexpectedly entered Calais harbour. Here was a new world open to my view, a collection of figures and appearances I was utterly a stranger to ; every thing seemed to me terrible, and it was with much difficulty I could be disposed to get on shore, having
 endeavoured:

endeavoured to prevail on Miss Fleetwood to secrete ourselves in the hold of the vessel, that we might return with it ; but her experience of the world, though not great, was far beyond mine ; and she pointed out the many difficulties and dangers we had to surmount in the execution of such a project, and the reception we should meet with from our relations and friends, in so lively and picturesque a manner, that she soon convinced me of the little practicability there was of executing such a scheme with success.

Behold me now, for the first time, upon French ground, tormented with a thousand impertinent and frivolous questions by custom-house officers and porters, and at length conducted to a dirty inn, which was reckoned the best in the whole town.

We were to remain here till the next night, as the coach would not be ready to set out for Douay till then. Whilst we were still at the inn, an adventure happened that was somewhat singular, and which, tho' it occurred fifteen years ago, I retain a perfect remembrance of.

A young gentleman, about eighteen years of age, came running into our apartment between nine and ten at night, in
great

great consternation, saying, " I am a dead man if you don't save me." Such an unexpected declaration greatly surprized us : however, after our first emotions were subsided, we began to inquire into the cause of so abrupt and unexpected a visit. " Look you, ladies, he replied, with great earnestness, if you have humanity enough to assist me in making my escape, you must do it speedily. I have not time to acquaint you with my story : all I can tell you in a few words is, that the officers of the police are at my heels, and if they come up with me I shall be broke alive ; the packet is now going to sail for England, but I cannot get on board without being disguised, for orders have been sent to all the sea-ports for stopping my getting out of the kingdom ; without one of you will lend me your dress and name, I am a dead man."

So earnest an address pleaded his cause effectually ; and Miss Fleetwood, without asking his name, or any question, immediately equipped him with one of her gowns, and all the other apparatus of female dress, when having most sincerely thanked us for our goodness, he set out, leaving his own cloaths behind him.

Though

Though such a scene as a man's undressing before me, would at any other time have greatly dashed me, the critical circumstances of the youth, and the impossibility there was of his doing it any where else, removed all those delicate notions upon this head, which I was naturally possessed of; and I even assisted him in putting on his cloaths, to make him appear as much like a female as possible. We were so successful in this respect, that he embarked on board the packet without being discovered, and sailed for England with a fair wind.

He had not been gone above two hours before we were disturbed by the officer of the police, who came to search the inn, having information that he had taken refuge there: we made as many excuses as possible for not giving them admittance, but all to no purpose; they insisted upon entering, and the more desirous we were of preventing them, the more strenuously they persisted in their demand. It was not, however, till they had begun to force open the door, and that we found all the pleadings of our sex and youth were of no avail, that we agreed to let them in as soon as we had dressed ourselves.

They searched the apartment, and soon discovered

discovered the young gentleman's cloaths: they immediately suspected we had been instrumental in his escape, and we were, without farther ceremony, taken before the governor, who upon examining us soon prevailed upon Miss Fleetwood to acknowledge all that passed. I was set at liberty, but she was put under arrest.

During her confinement I learnt the particulars of the young gentleman's story. He was one of the grey musqueteers, a remarkably handsome youth, and was therefore greatly caressed by the ladies at Versailles. He lived in great splendor and magnificence, and consequently expended large sums, which, it was well known, he acquired by the beneficence of the fair sex, in return for favours which he conferred upon them. His enamouratas were not, however, publickly known, though scandal often pointed them out. A farmer-general, whose wife made frequent calls upon him for considerable sums, which she pretended she had lost at play, gave him, at length, suspicion that she must have some other method of disposing of money than ill success at cards. He employed emissaries, who discovered the intrigue that was carried on between his wife and the young musqueteer.

musqueteer. The financier was naturally of a jealous disposition. He had married the lady out of pure love. She was of mean extraction, and had no fortune.

He repaired to the place of their rendezvous, resolving to make an example both of his wife and her gallant. He got into the chamber, and was an eye-witness of her perfidy. Rushing upon them sword-in-hand, while they were in this defenceless situation, they were likely both to fall a sacrifice to his revenge; but the young musqueteer seized his sword, and having disengaged himself from the couch of Venus, he entered the field of Mars, with such uncommon resolution and address, that the farmer-general paid for his temerity with his life.

The musqueteer had no time to lose after such an affair. As soon as he was dressed he took post for Calais, where he arrived only one hour before his pursuers. The lady was taken up and examined; but it appearing that she was no way accessory to the murder, she was set at liberty, without suffering any other punishment than the loss of her reputation.

C H A P. V.

Arrive at Douay. Their reception at the convent. The behaviour of the father-confessor to Miss Fleetwood and Maria. The great veneration that he is held in. An unfortunate discovery in the person of a nun. The event.

MISS Fleetwood remained confined upon the young musquetteer's account near three weeks. It was not till she had sent over to England to her relations, and they had given satisfactory answers to the governor's doubts, whether or no she was a relation or mistress of the young gentleman's, that she obtained her liberty. I sent an account of this affair to my papa, and obtained leave to remain at Calais, till such time as Juliana was able to renew her journey.

At length all formalities being observed, and Miss Fleetwood having received a very severe reprimand from the governor, she was released, and we departed from Calais for Douay, where we arrived without any remarkable occurrence on the way.

Upon our arrival at the convent, the mother

ther abbess came to the gate to meet us, and usher us in. She conducted us into the parlour, where she heaped compliments without number upon us. She told us, “ we were the most agreeable young ladies “ she had ever set eyes upon ; that the sisterhood would be delighted in having so “ amiable an addition to their number, “ and that she plainly saw we were designed for angels ; that heaven had parcelled “ us out for its own ; that we should find “ every thing agreeable to our merit ; and “ that there should be nothing wanting to “ render that holy seminary a delightful “ sanctuary.”

We were next introduced to all the sisterhood, one by one, who were equally lavish in their praises. There was nothing at all disagreeable in this introduction ; but when our father-confessor was brought to us, the scene was greatly changed ; he told us to prepare ourselves for confession next day, and having taken us separately aside, he bid me recollect all the sins I had been guilty of, or thought I could charge myself with.

At my first confession, the next day, after I had revealed every thing I had done, which appeared to me in the light of evil,

he

he still persisted in it, that I must have been guilty of more sins ; that it was impossible for any mortal to live so upright as I had described. He hinted crimes to me which I was entirely ignorant of, and did not know their meaning ; and at my departure, he muttered something about my being a hypocrite.

I could not help contrasting the behaviour of this capuchin, with the open frankness and honest good nature of Mr. Fisher, who was always satisfied with what I told him, and was never desirous of extorting an acknowledgment of imaginary sins.

Miss Fleetwood had agreed with me, to communicate to each other whatever happened during our stay there ; and though our father-confessor enjoined us to the strictest secrecy with regard to what passed at confession, we considered our prior engagement of more weight than his menaces.

She therefore acquainted me with the manner of his behaviour to her, which was very different ; for tho' she told him all that had passed between Billy and her, and all the various agitations of her mind, he had appeared no way dissatisfied at her conduct, and seemed to lament that " it was not in " his power to make her happy." She

added, he made use of these last words in so tender a manner, and accompanied them with so deep a sigh, that she could not believe the holy father was altogether so pious-minded as he ought to have been.

Father Jaquel, which was his name, was about forty years of age; he was rather low of stature, and inclined to be plump, of a ruddy complexion, with a longish nose, and black eyes, which he could render very expressive, at least in anger. By his public actions and words, every one would have concluded him to be a saint. He was particularly abstemious in his common diet, and conversed upon no subjects but such as were scriptural. It was looked upon as the highest crime to hint any thing to his prejudice, and every devotee appeared particularly sedulous to serve him.

He had been upwards of two years in the convent, his character remained always an ornament to his order, though by several discourses which had passed between him and Miss Fleetwood at confession, it was pretty plain that he had not entirely surmounted all the effects of carnality, when an affair happened that at once destroyed his pious reputation, and had nearly ruined all tranquillity in the convent.

Miss

Miss Fleetwood and I had remarked that the holy father continued always a much longer time in confessing and giving absolution to one of our nuns, whose name was Mademoiselle Fenelon, than any other of the order. We had more than once perceived him retire from her in great confusion, and Mademoiselle's head and tucker often appeared very much ruffled after these holy conferences. It would have been highly uncharitable to have supposed any harm had passed between them upon these pious occasions, and it would have been still more dangerous to have revealed such suppositions. However, at the end of this period, Miss Fenelon's waist appeared uncommonly large. She would readily have submitted to a dropical complaint, but she had no symptoms but what the faculty could have accounted for upon more natural principles: she was nevertheless indulged in the belief that she was afflicted with this disorder, and proper remedies were prescribed for her. They all proved ineffectual, and the time for her being tapped now approached. Instead of a discharge of water, she produced two fine chopping boys.

She was taken ill at midnight. The

neighbourhood was alarmed as well as the convent. It was a whimsical errand for a messenger to go upon: "One of our nuns" "is in labour, and wants your assistance immediately." There was no mincing matters; a midwife must be had, and what other message could be delivered?

"The reputation of my house destroyed" "—the sanctity of my character ruined—" "virtuous minds turned astray—pious virgins led to vicious thoughts—and I myself, whose chastity has ever been untainted, to have such a spectacle before my eyes, nay, under my very nose; not only one, but even two at a time; oh, monstrous!" Such were the lamentations of our worthy mother abbess, who seemed greatly afflicted indeed; but whether out of real piety for the loss of so pious a pastor as father Jaquel, who had ere now absconded, I cannot pretend to determine. It must be acknowledged that her grief seemed to be blended with a spice of jealousy, as well as a christian abhorrence for such shameful and scandalous conduct.

C H A P. VI.

Maria is called over to England upon the death of her father. The affectionate leave she takes of Miss Fleetwood. Arrives in London; meets her brothers. Her behaviour at the play. The patrimony she receives. An invitation from her mother, which she disregards. The dangerous insinuation of her aunt.

SUCH then was our situation in the convent, when news came of the death of my father. The executors of his will demanded my attendance in England as soon as possible; and after having taken leave of the mother abbess, and the rest of my companions, I set out to review my native country, after two years and a half absence. Miss Fleetwood testified the greatest concern at parting with me, saying, "she should now be miserable indeed, as I had been her only consolation amidst all her heart-breaking anxieties." There certainly was a sympathy of sentiments, which our constant acquaintance, from our first meeting, had framed into something superior to friendship; it bordered upon love. To quit, then, the only object that had yet

excited in me any notions that could be denominated by that passion, must have been the more dreadful to her, as her confinement was still to be continued, without a friend into whose bosom she could pour the secrets of her heart. Alas ! I know too well what she must have felt by my own sensations.

I left the disconsolate Juliana in the spring of the year 1752, and for the first time saw the metropolis of England. This was a scene indeed, for a girl who had been immured in a monastery from the time that reason first began to dawn. I met my brothers, whom I had not seen for near three years, having come to London upon the same errand as myself. Their religion, I have observed, precluded them employment in their native country, and they had therefore been compelled to seek it elsewhere. The eldest had obtained a commission in the Imperial service, and the younger in that of France. They had served during the preceding war in Flanders and Italy, and acquired some laurels in the two last campaigns. They expressed great satisfaction at meeting me, which I as sensibly returned.

Whilst our testamentary business was settling,

settling, my brothers very kindly shewed me all the public diversions. I had never seen a play before, when they took me to the celebrated tragedy of Romeo and Juliet. The representation of this piece could not fail very greatly affecting me, as, besides the characters and sentiments which must be highly interesting to a young mind, the funeral procession, in many respects similar to what I had been accustomed to, gave it such an air of reality, that my brothers said they were quite ashamed at my being so deeply affected. They told me *it was a mark of great rusticity to be touched at any incidents of a theatrical representation; that people of taste paid them not the least regard; but, on the contrary, in the midst of the most tender scenes, they would be entertaining one another with a loud whisper, or a louder laugh.*

I acknowledge that I might have been guilty of a mark of unpoliteness, in giving vent to the grief those interesting scenes excited; but that at the same time I conceived those people of supposed taste were not only guilty of ill-manners in disturbing the rest of the audience, but proved themselves insensible to every thing that was sublime and beautiful.

Though my brothers were not averse to acknowledge the rectitude of this reasoning, they were such avowed slaves to ridiculous custom, that I could never prevail upon them to attend me again to a tragedy. However we went to more comedies than one, and whilst the business which they came to England upon lasted, they treated me with great fraternal regard, and seemed particularly anxious for my welfare.

Their leave of absence was now expired, and they were obliged to return to their respective corps. By the regulation of my father's will, after his legal debts were paid, a bequest of two hundred and fifty pounds fell to my lot. My brothers received five hundred pounds each, and my mother had a small annuity secured to her for her life, with which she subsisted decently, not elegantly, in Lancashire. This was the disposition of all our family-fortune, and with this small stipend I was to make my way in the world as a gentlewoman and a woman of character.

My brothers were very desirous before their departure for the continent, to see me settled in some manner, whereby I might gain a genteel livelihood; but the shortness of their stay in England prevented their effecting

fecting their design. It is true, my mother wrote to me, with intreaties to come to her, where, by our mutual œconomy, we might contrive to pass an agreeable life upon the produce of our joint stock. I may attribute all my misfortunes to not paying a proper attention to this proposal. I too eagerly swallowed the sweetened flattery of an aunt, at whose house I lodged, who persuaded me “ I should certainly make my
 “ fortune in London, where my narrow
 “ circumstances were not known ; but that
 “ if I returned to Lancashire, where our family-poverty had been so completely manifested, I could not expect any one
 “ would look upon me for a wife, or esteem
 “ me as an acquaintance ; that London was
 “ the only market for beauty, and that a
 “ prudent sensible girl like me, who had
 “ so good an education, and was mistress
 “ of so many charms, could not fail very
 “ shortly of meeting with a man suitable to
 “ her most sanguine wishes.”

These sentiments were so entirely agreeable to my own way of thinking, that I could not be persuaded they were unjust. Little did I then consider that self-interest was the principal motive of my aunt's broaching this doctrine. She told me “ I
 “ was

“ was now arrived at woman’s age, tho’ I
 “ was scarce fifteen, and it was time for me
 “ to think of settling in the world; that in
 “ the choice of a husband, I should not so
 “ much consider beauty, or even youth, as
 “ that great palliative of all evils, money;
 “ that I must not expect to meet with all
 “ those fine romantic ideas of a lover, which
 “ I had perhaps suggested to myself, in a
 “ husband; that, if he were not old or
 “ ugly, so much the better, but the main
 “ thing was to find out one that was rich;”
 and she generally ended with a passage out
 of Garth’s prologue to Cato, and which, I
 believe, was the only scrap of poetry she
 ever read, or at least retained.

“ The woes of wedlock with the joys we mix;
 “ ’Tis best repenting in a coach and six.”

This was a favourite sentiment of her’s, and
 which she took great pains to inculcate in
 me.

Though I was thoroughly of opinion
 that I was a very proper woman, and very
 fit to be married, yet I could not help shud-
 dering with horror at the thoughts of wed-
 ding age and infirmity. To clasp disease
 within my arms, methought was shocking
 to nature and reason.

C H A P. VII.

Maria's progress in the beau monde. A description of her person. Her first conquest, with a curious epistle. Her behaviour thereupon, and her aunt's judicious observations.

MY worthy aunt took particular and early care to let me know, that a girl's fortune in London depended in a great measure upon the figure and appearance she made, and that therefore I should think of furnishing myself with some genteel and fashionable cloaths, at the same time intimating that I had scarce a gown that was fit to wear, as I had out-grown all my things that were made in the English taste, and as to my French ones, they were abominable. By this means she put me to about thirty pounds expence for three new sacks, and so completely disgusted me at my old ones, that with very little persuasion she became the proprietor of them. I could not help, however, observing, that tho' they looked so frightful upon me, they appeared quite different when upon her,

her, and that she considered them as the very best in her whole wardrobe.

The great object she pointed out to me was, the necessity of my appearing in public places, that I might be seen and talked about ; for it was a maxim with her, that the finest woman in England who shut herself up, could never think of having admirers ; “ and besides,” she would add, “ if you once become the reigning toast, you may command a coronet ; for the men, in their choice, do not mind so much what they themselves think of a woman, as what the world thinks of her.”

There was no occasion for such strong stimulatives to prompt me to follow the paths of pleasure ; I had myself as much delight in going to the Park, the play, or Vauxhall, as she could possibly have instilled into me with all her reasoning and logic ; it is true, her arguments seemed to me additional incentives, and I thought I must be in the right road when I had the advice and applause of a woman of so much experience, and so near a relation. Upon this plan, then, we seldom missed an evening but what we were at some public diversion or other. A young girl, a fresh object in the gay world, well dressed, fails not of some

some observers : it will not be astonishing then to think I attracted the attention of more than one, when the following picture of myself, at this time, I do sincerely think was a just one.

Nature seemed in some measure to anticipate my days of maturity, for though I was but in my fifteenth year, I had every appearance of a woman ; I was already above the middle stature, with a fair skin, clear sparkling black eyes, a well-shaped nose, pouting ruby lips, regular white teeth, and an agreeable dimple in my cheek ; my hair was of a dark brown, which flowed in ringlets down a neck that was taper and well-shaped ; an easy fall of the shoulders took off, in some degree, from that plumpness before, which is uncommon at my age ; my shape was not remarkably slender, but proportioned to my body, and my legs and feet, which were particularly genteel, received grace from an easy unaffected air I was naturally possessed of ; my hand and arm, already formed, were of the number of those which painters so attentively imitate.

The reader will perhaps be inclined to think I am rather vain of my person. I might have been so at the age I am speaking.

ing of, but I have no vestiges of that folly remaining, so that I may now be supposed to speak without prejudice. It is observed, that we always talk most awkwardly about ourselves, especially when it relates to any thing that may be considered as a perfection. I shall therefore give a transcript of the first love-letter I ever received, which might not a little contribute to the opinion I entertained of my charms, as it paints me in a much more beautiful form than I have attempted to draw myself.

“ Most beauteous maid,

I know not from what clime thou art borrowed, or whether we owe thee to celestial parents; but thou art certainly the most enchanting creature that eyes ever beheld. It is now a fortnight since I have paid attention to any other object but yourself.—I have been all this time studying to discover in thee some imperfection—but how vain, how fruitless have been my endeavours?—Every time I gaze, fresh charms rush upon me before undiscovered. Venus and the graces are odious comparisons when you appear.—For heaven’s sake, if you have any charity, study to make yourself less handsome, or teach me some
how

how to deserve such incomparable beauty.
—Alas! what do I say? I rave. Is it possible for a wretch like me to imagine you will throw away a thought upon the miserable.

Lothario."

This letter is wrote in the true style of romance, and there is nothing wanting to make one believe that Lothario felt all the anguish he expressed, but that he did not tag a single couplet to it. A lover must be a poet by instinct; madrigals and sonnets are the only pure language of Cytherea. A true lover should do nothing like another man—a serenade should serve him for sleep—he should fast out of passion—rhyme out of sentiment, and die out of fondness. What a pity it is Lothario could not tag a couplet or two; nay, had he borrowed it, and only said,

A gen'ral doom on all mankind is past,
And all are fools and lovers first or last,

I certainly should have believed him, and never thought of him without ruminating upon his character, I mean that of a lover. But for a man to dangle after you from public place to public place, grow wan in
staring

staring at you—keep time to the music with his sighs, without having the effrontery to tell you, “ You are the finest woman in “ all Christendom,” though by-the-bye he never was out of England—but, at the end of a fortnight, to write you a melancholy ditty, and say “ I am the unhappy Lothario,” does not he deserve to be treated just in the manner I treated him—that is, having his letter returned by the bearer, after having taken a copy of it? This, it must be owned, was highly necessary, or else how the deuce could I have remembered it?

How easy it is to write when one scribbles upon a pleasing subject! I have run through three pages, and scarce know where I am, and I only set out in giving a description of Miss Maria Brown, in her fifteenth year. But as we have gone so far, it is time to change the subject, and think what sort of a creature this same strange Lothario might be.

He was a man about thirty, tall and well-made, seemed passionately fond of music, before he became so passionately fond of me. He never missed an opera nor an oratorio, took his seat under the orchestra at Vauxhall, and as constantly placed himself next the rails at Ranelagh; he seldom sauntered

tered in the Park, till I drew him from the Royal Exchange to St. James's in the forenoon. In a word, he was an opulent merchant, and might have made an excellent husband, if I had possessed more prudence and less coquetry.

When I read the letter to my aunt, she said the man was certainly out of his mind, and she would by no means have any of her family unite with lunatics. There was no consideration, she added, could be equivalent to bringing a race of mad folks into the world, and that in this respect it was full as bad as the evil.

C H A P. VIII.

A modern character in the person of Dorimont. His passions and afflictions. Maria is rivalled by a new-fashioned negligee.

THOUGH my youth and ignorance in the real estimation of mankind prevented my thinking seriously upon such a suitor as Lothario, I was not insensible of the great estimation in which I seemed to be held by fops and dangles. My worthy aunt had more reasons than one for dissuading me to think of Lothario: though the
advancing

advancing of my interest was the pretended motive for acting upon the present recreative plan, yet her own advantage was what she had really at heart; and as my purse bore all the weight, she very judiciously conceived, that the sooner I married, the sooner she would be precluded from my assistance, especially if I was to wed a man of sense and discernment sufficient to see into her real designs: she conceived if I married a beau, or a fool, he might be persuaded to believe that she had all along acted the parent's part, and that it would still be for my advantage to remain under so good and experienced a tutorefs. For these reasons I never had a civil thing said to me by the *butterflies* of the day, but she advised me to listen to so genteel a man, so polite a person, so elegant a fellow. A girl's natural vanity and fondness of dress and parade are alone sufficient incentives for her to consider those heterogeneous animals in a point of light very different from what they merit: the sanction this disposition received from my *gouvernante*, made me conceive I was in terrestrial elysium every time a powdered puppy told me, with an unmeaning face, that, *I was the sweetest creature he had ever seen.*

Dorimont,

Dorimont, that compendium of perfumery, who spoke only to hear his own sweet voice, smiled only to display his dimple, and laughed only to manifest the whiteness of his teeth; the unmeaning, insignificant, odoriferous Dorimont was a professed suitor of mine; he was enamoured, because it was the fashion to be in love; but this passion never exceeded the bounds of the most insipid delicacy, of the most unmeaning chastity; he would fain have had the world believe he was the happy man, but he was not desirous of taking the trouble of being so. The summit of Dorimont's bliss was to be considered a favourite of the Ladies. Did they but smile upon him at the play, or ogle him at Renelagh, oh! the happy, too happy Dorimont! A new toast no sooner made her appearance, than he contrived some method of being introduced to her; and he was sure to be the first man that was seen with her tête-à-tête in publick. All his faculties were confined to studying the means of procuring these desirable ends; and it must be acknowledged to his credit, that his success was equal to his industry.

Dorimont was a great favourite of my
aunt's;

aunt's; she had prevailed upon him to believe she was a very sensible woman, had seen much of the world, kept the best company, and had always been esteemed for her politeness and agreeable conversation. This favourable opinion which Dorimont entertained of my aunt, made her, by a certain reciprocity of sentiment, entertain very favourable notions of Dorimont, who in her eyes was the accomplished gentleman, a perfect master of good breeding, had an excellent taste for dress, a most engaging manner, and, above all, was a complete judge of mankind. What could be more endearing than all these accomplishments in a husband? But the misfortune was, he never opened his lips upon the score of matrimony, or indeed the tender passion, except it were to tell me, that he should be the most miserable wretch alive if I refused him the happiness of my hand—to Renelagh.

My aunt would fain have had him more explicit upon these heads, and often urged him to come to an eclaircissement. But how can a man explain his meaning, when he has none?

All his passions centered in dress, parade
and

and vanity ; he was an utter stranger to all impure ideas of carnality. He was in love, it is true ; but then it was not with my person—but my negligee. He was always captivated with a woman in proportion to her dress—and I lost my lover, because Miss D—— appeared that night at Ranelagh in the last new-fashioned silk, which I was not mistress of.

C H A P. IX.

Maria's revenge upon Dorimont — her triumph. Her aunt's remonstrances, with some small insight into the characters of Captain T——, and Sir Thomas B.

I Would readily have forgiven Miss D—— for having made so valuable a conquest, had her success been owing to her beauty, and not her dress ; but it was a mortifying consideration to see myself slighted for a beldame that might have been my mother, without even the vestige of a good feature, as a remnant of antiquated charms. I was resolved to supply Dorimont's loss, and to convince him how much superior I was to my rival,

as

as well in dress as person : though the expence of a new sack was what I could ill afford at this juncture, my vanity, seconded by my aunt's approbation, made me resolve upon outshining Miss D—— the very next night she appeared at Ranelagh.

I had scarce entered the amphitheatre, before I was accosted by two gentlemen with whom I had drank tea there, in company with Dorimont : their persons and appearance were perhaps the most elegant in the place ; so that, considering the pains I had taken to sparkle, we made one of the most striking groups in the place. Dorimont had accompanied Miss D—— in her own coach ; we met him the very first round, he made a very low bow, and I turned my head aside. He blushed, and looked extremely confused, but still imputed my inattention to oversight ; so that, whilst the next song was singing, he came close to me, and asked me, in a loud whisper, “ Whether I intended to captivate every man in the place ? for the very ladies say, that you never looked so handsome before.” I replied, “ I was very much obliged to the ladies, and particularly
 “ Miss

“ Miss D——, who was doubtless a very
 “ great judge of beauty, as she had studi-
 “ ed it so long.” This I pronounced
 with so audible a voice, that no one,
 within some yards, could avoid hearing ;
 which produced so general a titter, that
 poor Dorimont did not attempt to say any
 more bright things that evening ; but
 joined Miss D——, who had heard the
 compliment I paid her, with all imagina-
 ble precipitation.

This triumph over that consummate
 coxcomb did not a little gratify my spleen.
 Captain T—— said, he would certainly
 hang himself if he could muster up cou-
 rage enough ; and Sir Thomas B——
 offered a hundred guineas to ten, that
 he would never be able to shew his face
 again at Ranelagh. The truth is, that
 neither Dorimont nor Miss D—— were
 any more visible that evening ; and the
 next day, so strongly did the draught ope-
 rate, a letter was published in one of the
 daily papers, remonstrating against the
ill-behaviour of certain ladies in public
 places. Captain T—— took upon
 himself to answer it, and depicted in so
 lively a manner the character of the au-
 thor, that Dorimont was obliged to go

into the country for three months, to the irreparable loss of the ladies, and the great diminution of his conquests, to avoid being pointed at for the author of *remonstrances to the ladies*.

My vanity and self-importance were greatly magnified by these coquetish victories, and it cannot be at all surprizing that I should imagine I could at any time command the first nobleman in England, if I set seriously about it; but this, I thought, it would be time enough to do when I had committed a little more slaughter with my charms. My aunt was, however, of a very different way of thinking; she conceived that I was very much to blame not to bring every man, who said a civil thing to me, to an *eclaircissement*. In this respect her prudence could not be condemned, as she foresaw, without extending her view to a very distant prospect, the entire annihilation of my fortune, by continuing the route we had now pursued for above eighteen months. "Polly," said she to me one morning, "I do not at all approve of carrying your severity to that pitch, with regard to the men—you have already flighted above half a dozen good parties, that I am pretty certain you might have made

“made sure of, had you play’d your cards
 “right; you should strike whilst the iron
 “is hot; when fortune knocks, be sure to
 “open the door. You have, by your cru-
 “elty, drove Dorimont into the country—
 “that Dorimont who might have made
 “you so good a husband.—He was a man,
 “if I have any judgment of the world,
 “whom you might have fashioned to your
 “own liking; you might have made him
 “think as you pleased, and act as you
 “chose; besides, he had a good fortune,
 “and was very much of the gentleman.”

I could not help interrupting her here:
 “Indeed, aunt, said I, his fortune could
 “not be very great, or else he always be-
 “haved in a very scrubby manner; for, if
 “you observed, he constantly let us pay
 “for ourselves whenever we went to a
 “public place with him; and if he accom-
 “panied us in a coach, he contrived to
 “frame some excuse for leaving us to come
 “back by ourselves, that he might avoid
 “bearing the expence upon our return.—
 “And with regard to his being very much
 “of the gentleman, I am sorry to find your
 “notions of gentility are confined to such
 “beings—such reptiles as Dorimont.”

“Well, resumed my aunt, it is needless

“ to talk any more about him—good or
 “ bad, he is gone, and it is in vain to re-
 “ pine.—But here is the Captain, who has
 “ been dangling after you these three
 “ months, and I do not find you are an
 “ hour nearer bringing him to an explana-
 “ tion, than you were the very first night
 “ you met him at Ranelagh. Besides, if
 “ you do not like the Captain, though to
 “ be sure he is very handsome, and quite
 “ the gentleman; there is Sir Thomas
 “ B——, he is rich enough to make you a
 “ genteel settlement, I warrant he would
 “ think nothing of five or six hundred a
 “ year for pin-money, keep you a sedan, a
 “ man out of livery for yourself, and every
 “ thing you could desire;—then you might
 “ be of some little service to your friends
 “ that wish you well, without hurting your-
 “ self.”—“ But, dear aunt, said I, interrupt-
 “ ing her, can I force the men to explain
 “ themselves? I should have no manner of
 “ objection to the Captain, but I am afraid
 “ he has got little more than his pay. As
 “ to the Knight, to be sure, I should like
 “ him above all things; a title is what I
 “ have always aimed at; but he has never
 “ yet so much as hinted at matrimony—and
 “ after all, I am yet but very young. I may
 “ perhaps

“ perhaps meet with something better than
 “ either of these——” When we had got
 thus far in our dialogue, we were inter-
 rupted by a rat-tat at the door, and a se-
 dan chair, from whence issued a gentleman
 who had done me the honour of his hand
 the night before, at a private ball, and who
 now did me the honour of waiting upon
 me to tea.

C H A P. X.

Some account of Maria's new lover. The
 advances he makes, and her behaviour
 thereupon. A dialogue of courtship,
 very proper to be read by all young la-
 dies, who think they may ever be in the
 same situation.

MR. Fitzherbert, my present visitor,
 was a native of Ireland; but he
 had entirely divested himself of any pecu-
 liarity in his discourse or pronounciation,
 which most frequently distinguish the na-
 tives of that country. He was about five
 and twenty years of age, tall, genteel, and
 handsome; he passed for a man of very
 considerable fortune, and presumptive heir
 to a Coronet. Such recommendations as

these could not fail having their influence over me, more especially as he seemed by nature destined to charm our sex : he had the happy art of always pleasing in conversation, of suiting his discourse to his company, and ever furnishing something new and entertaining : but though these talents in general company made him constantly agreeable and desired, they were greatly eclipsed when put in competition with his tête-à-tête conversations, when he seemed to unite every thing that could charm and delight—he applauded without the appearance of flattery—he captivated without appearing emulous of conquest.

Such then was Mr. Fitzherbert, who now paid me his first visit, which was very short, but which was very soon repeated, and which from being ceremonial soon became familiar. He would drop in at breakfast, take a dinner, and sometimes stay to supper : he seemed to look upon himself already as one of the family, and took every opportunity of declaring his friendship : but still not a word of love occurred ; it was full two months before he opened his lips upon this theme : I almost despaired that he would ever declare himself, when one afternoon, whilst he was sitting
by

by me, and I was at work, he broke forth with a sigh, which I could not help responding to, though at the same time I asked him the cause of his grief. "My dear Miss," said he, why do you ask me so perplexing a question? At this very time I am the happiest man in Europe—that sigh did not flow from grief, but from joy, which could be no otherways expressed."—"Indeed, I replied, it is very extraordinary that joy should demonstrate itself in so very doleful a manner."—"But pray, Miss, said he, interrupting me, upon what occasion did you give vent to some discontent, if such must be the cause of sighing?" This question did not a little disconcert me; however, I had presence of mind sufficient to say, "That my father, who was one of the tenderest parents, just then came into my head."—"Upon my word, replied he, hastily, I should rather have imagined you had been thinking of a lover."—In saying this he caught hold of my hand, and kissed it with great rapture.

My aunt entered at this instant, which I was very glad of, as it saved me some confusion, though my face was pretty well covered with blushes. Tea was now pre-

pared, and we had no opportunity of coming to any farther explanation that afternoon.

The next day, however, he took an opportunity of waiting upon me in the absence of my aunt. "My dear life, said he, "in entering, I am come to make a tender "to you of a virgin heart, that has not yet "been caught within the wiles of love— "will you accept of it with as much sincerity as I offer it?"

"Upon my word, Sir, said I, you quite "astonish me with such a declaration, I do "not know what answer to make."

"Shall I dictate to you, resumed he, "only say that you accept of my offer, and "I am completely happy. I will not pretend to ask your's in return; that would "be too much presumption, till such time "as I have, in your opinion, merited it."

"Indeed, Sir, I replied, you talk to me "in a language that I am an utter stranger "to—this may be very fashionable and "elegant, but to an innocent, ignorant girl "like me, it is absolutely thrown away upon her."

"Oh! my Maria, said he, if you treat "me in this coquettish manner, I am quite "undone: lay aside that vanity and insolence of your sex, and be a rational creature."

“ ture.—Do you consider that I am this moment upon the rack, and that every evasion you make is but an additional torture ?” He uttered these last words with so much seeming sincerity, and accompanied them so opportunely with a flood of tears, that I could not refrain joining concert in his affliction.

When I had somewhat recovered myself, and wiped away the tears I endeavoured to hide, “ What would you ask of me ? said I.” “ Only whether or not you completely hate me ?” he replied. “ If it will give you any satisfaction, I answered, to tell you I do not, that I readily will.” But, said he, do you think you could prevail upon yourself to conceive one favourable thought in my behalf.”—“ I have no reason, said I, to entertain any other.”—“ But then, said he, taking hold of my hand gently, do you think I might ever share any part of your esteem ? Indeed, Sir, I replied, I esteem every gentleman that behaves as such.”—“ So then, said he, I find I only participate in general the benevolence you extend to all mankind—Do you think I can never hope to engage one small quarter of your heart, after I have so frankly yielded

“yielded you all mine?”—“Indeed, Sir,
 “it is difficult, I said, for me so young to
 “judge of my future sentiments; but I
 “must acknowledge I like you as well as
 “any gentleman I ever saw.”—“Then,
 “my angel, said he, you have made me
 “happy; if I have no rival, I may hope,
 “by perseverance, and a full demonstration
 “of the extent of my passion, to merit
 “some particular regard in your eye.”

This was the substance of this conversation; and he left me, after having made the most solemn declaration, that “never
 “yet had any female made the least impression
 “upon his heart, but that he found
 “the complete conquest was left for me,
 “whose transcendent charms no man could
 “dare resist.”

Upon my aunt's return, she was very inquisitive to know what had passed between me and Mr. Fitzherbert, and whether he had yet come to any terms? whether he had yet appointed the day for our nuptials? but above all, whether he had yet made me any present? I told her, in answer, that he had said many civil things to me; but that they were such as every pretty woman ought to expect from a man with whom she is tête-a-tête. This information

mation was no way satisfactory to my aunt ; for she said *I should now profit of the opportunity* before his passion cooled, as he might perhaps meet with some other that he might think handsomer, or like better. I did not pretend to dispute with her any of these points, though in my opinion I fancied I had so perfectly rivetted him, that there could be no danger of a rival.

I retired early to rest, yet I got but very little sleep that night ; I scarce closed my eyes for reflecting upon what Mr. Fitzherbert had said to me. I found he had made a complete conquest of my heart ; and yet there was something misgave me, that he did not mean honourably by me ; and I was resolved to have an explanation from him of this matter, the first time he renewed his conversation on the score of love.

C H A P. XI.

The rupture between Maria and Mr. Fitzherbert, his letter upon the occasion, their reconciliation, the approach of their nuptials, and the preparation she makes.

MY lover was as constant to his hour
 ————— As the dial to the sun,
 Although it be not shone upon.

Hee

He renewed his addresſes, and preſſed me hard to make a tender of my heart, and I plucked up courage enough to aſk him upon what terms? “The moſt honourable in the world, he replied.” Why, then, Sir, ſaid I, you may take what ſteps you pleaſe to convince me of your ſincerity. He ſeemed ſomewhat diſconcerted at this unexpected reply, and during the reſt of his viſit the converſation turned entirely upon indifferent things. The next day, however, he renewed the ſubject of his paſſion, ſaying, that now he was the happieſt man in the world, and that he conſidered me already as his better part, “for after mutual conſent, ſaid he, all the reſt is mere ceremony.”—“How, Sir, ſaid I, do you look upon the holy inſtitution of marriage as mere ceremony, that may be diſpenſed with whenever our inclination may prompt us to conſider it in that light?”—“My dear, ſaid he, read ſcripture, and you will ſee our fore-fathers conſidered it entirely in this light, and I do not ſuppoſe we can pretend to be better than them; beſides, ſaid he, there are ſo many obſtacles now to ſurmount, and ſo many diſagreeable ſteps to be taken, ſince the marriage-aſt has paſſed,

“ fed, that all sensible people are entire-
 “ ly of opinion that it is only putting so
 “ much money in the priest’s pocket, to
 “ publish three weeks before hand to all
 “ the parish, that on such a night a girl is
 “ to lose her virginity.”

His conversation did not a little alarm me, and I left him in an abrupt manner, saying, that since I found he and I differed so much in essentials, it was time we should discontinue our acquaintance. He would fain have prevented my going, but all his efforts were ineffectual, and I retired to my chamber, where I gave a full vent to my grief in a flood of tears. My aunt found me in this situation, and desired to know the reason; to this I answered in general, that I believed Mr. Fitzherbert had no good intentions towards me: she asked me if he had offered me any rudeness? To this I replied in the negative; but added, I was certain, by the tenor of his discourse, that he had no design of making me his wife. Whilst we were thus canvassing Mr. Fitzherbert’s late behaviour, a chairman brought a letter from him, which he had written at an adjacent coffee-house, and which was nearly to the following purport.

“ My

"My dear Miss,

"I am extremely sorry that you should
 "have taken any thing amiss which occur-
 "red in our conversation this afternoon :
 "if you form any bad opinion of me there-
 "from you are much to blame, for what I
 "said I did not deliver as my sentiments,
 "but what might be urged upon the oc-
 "casion by any indifferent person. I beg
 "you will not think me any way culpable
 "for uttering what accidentally escaped
 "from me without the least design of
 "displeasing. If I have, however, of-
 "fended you, prescribe the terms of my
 "atonement, and I will readily submit to
 "them—A general recantation of my er-
 "rors, if you are of opinion that I ever a-
 "dopted any, I am very ready to make,
 "and to assure you by the most solemn of
 "vows how much I am, and more than it
 "is possible for words to express,

"My dear angel,
 "Your most devoted servant.

George's Coffee-house, "G. Fitzherbert."
Tuesday-afternoon.

My eyes were too much involved in sor-
row

row to be able to peruse this epistle; so that my aunt, to whom I consigned it, having put on her spectacles, read it aloud, but not without making comments upon every passage, and concluding the whole with saying, "This man can never mean aught but honourable, for you have it under his hand, so that you need be under no apprehensions."

In this manner did my discerning aunt buoy me up with hopes, and prevail upon me to readmit his visits, though I was very far from being convinced of the sincerity of his intentions from this letter.

He appeared with seeming great contrition in his countenance upon his next visit, saying, "he was convinced he had been in the wrong in asserting what he had done, but that they were far from his sentiments upon that subject, as he would have convinced me if I had given him time; but that I bounced away from him in such a hurry, and in such a heat, that there was no such thing as setting any thing to rights."

I told him in return, "that I was very glad to find he was not of that way of thinking, and that it was upon that consideration only that I admitted him again

“to visit me, as what he said must have alarmed every woman of a virtuous disposition, who paid the least regard to a gentleman’s addresses.”

In this manner was our reconciliation brought about, my aunt observing in her usual trite proverbial style, “that the quarrel of lovers was the renewal of love.” Things appeared now to go on swimmingly; he said he should procure a special licence, and absolutely fixed upon a day for our nuptials. My time was employed in preparing my bridal cloaths, and I spared no expence upon the occasion, as I thought it would be paying my husband a compliment to appear as elegant as possible in quality of Mrs. Fitzherbert.

C H A P. XII.

She is persuaded against her inclination to go with Fitzherbert to a ball—takes her to a tavern near Soho—they wait for the company, who never come—repeated expedients are used to prevail upon her to stay—He puts laudanum into her liquor, which brings on an involuntary sleep, when he deflours her of her virginity.

Whilst

WHILST things were in this situation, he came one afternoon in a great hurry, and told me he had received from a friend of his two tickets for a ball, which was to consist of nothing but the genteelest and most elegant company, particularly of the female kind, otherwise he would not propose the party to me. I had been running about all that day from milliners to mercers, and from mercers to mantua-makers, and was so fatigued that the thoughts of dancing were sufficient to make me resolve upon retiring to rest: I therefore pleaded this excuse, and begged he would compliment some other lady with his ticket and his hand; but he could not think of such a thing as long as I was in being, and intreated me not to refuse him so small a favour. I still persevered, however, in not going, till my aunt joined in persuasion with him, and made use of all the arguments in her power, whispering to me that I should not refuse Mr. Fitzherbert any *reasonable request, as things were at present situated*. This last argument had more force than all the rest, and at length much against my inclination, I agreed to accompany him.

Upon our arrival at the place where the
ball

ball was fixed upon, he inquired of the waiter for several gentlemen by name, and was answered they were not yet come, so that we were shewn into a room to wait for their arrival. Though this was the first time in my life that I was ever in a tavern with a man alone, I had not the least apprehensions of danger, as I considered myself at present with no other than my husband; so that I readily consented to drink a glass of wine, and appeared as chearful as the occasion required.

An hour elapsed in this manner, before any of our expected companions arrived, and I began to testify some apprehensions that we should be disappointed, and to signify that it were better we returned; but he appeared very positive there could be no disappointment, as the persons who had invited him were to be at all the expence, which arose from some wagers that had been lost in that house a few evenings before, and that the money was already deposited in the landlord's hands. " Besides," added he, if they do not come, I think " we have a right to partake of the regale " for the trouble we have taken."

This last assertion I did not altogether admire, as I imagined it looked as if he was
already

already reconciled to a supper without a dance, and I now pressed him more than ever to go : he repeatedly rung the bell to inquire if any of the gentlemen were come yet, and he was constantly answered in the negative.

We had already drank a bottle of champagne, and I began to find my head somewhat giddy, which made me resolutely refuse touching another glass, though he greatly importuned me ; and I ordered the waiter to call me a coach, as I was fearful my giddiness might increase.

Some expedient was now necessary to make me stay ; the waiter returned, and said there was never a coach upon the stand ; I then ordered a chair, but the same difficulty presented itself in this respect, and I found myself under the disagreeable necessity of either walking home, in the midst of a heavy rain, dressed as I was, or staying till such time as the waiter thought proper to procure a conveyance.

Whilst I remained in this disagreeable situation a card was brought Mr. Fitzherbert, intimating that one of the ladies who was to have been present, was taken suddenly ill, and that the dance was postponed till another opportunity. This message had

had its desired effect, I began to pity the lady, though I knew nothing of her, and was easily persuaded to be seated, when an elegant cold collation coming in, Mr. Fitzherbert insisted upon my eating, saying, "it would do my head good;" and in this expectation I eat a wing of a fowl, and drank some small beer.

Supper was scarce taken away before such an uncommon drowsiness came over me, as I never before experienced, all my endeavours to keep awake were ineffectual, and in a few minutes I was overwhelmed with sleep—O! that this had been the sleep of death, never to have waked again—But, alas! I was brought back to life and shame by the cruel efforts of this perfidious man, to rob me of woman's most precious jewel!

The soporific draughts which he so treacherously imposed upon me, had now lost their force—the situation I was in too sensibly affected me to let even laudanum operate—my screams, my outcries, were all in vain—the deed was done, and it was but little consolation to upbraid him with the appellations of villain, monster, and barbarian! He threw himself at my feet, and protested "that he had struggled a—
"gainst

“ gainst nature, reason became too weak—
 “ that I was so inchantingly beautiful as I
 “ flumbered, that an anchorite might have
 “ been pardoned for his crime. Besides,
 “ continued he, my dear Maria, are you
 “ not my wife, will not eight and forty
 “ hours consecrate you mine by all laws
 “ human and divine? I have but just tasted
 “ of that delicious fruit, which has given
 “ a greater edge to my appetite, and I shall
 “ think every moment an age, till the de-
 “ lectable banquet is served in form.”

Tears were now my only reply, whilst
 he endeavoured by every sophisticated ar-
 gument to persuade me that he was infi-
 nitely more enamoured with me than ever.

“ Your face, he said, it is true, has irrefis-
 “ tible charms—but those beauties which
 “ I have just explored, are what most emi-
 “ nently intitle you to a superiority over
 “ the rest of your sex—

“ Where am I! surely paradise is round me!

“ Sweets planted by the hand of heav’n grow here,

“ And every sense is full of thy perfection.

“ To hear thee speak might calm a madman’s phrenzy,

“ Till by attention he forgot his sorrows.

“ To touch thee that’s heaven—but to enjoy thee,

“ O! thou nature’s whole perfection in one piece,

“ Sure in framing thee heav’n took unusual care,

“ Like it’s own beauty it design’d thee fair,

“ And form’d thee by the best lov’d angel there.

“ Pardon

“ Pardon my rapture, my life, but no-
 “ thing but the words of that inimitable
 “ poet could express the amazing sensati-
 “ ons I have just felt.

C H A P. XIII.

Maria is prevailed upon to acquiesce to his intreaties, by the solemn promises he makes of marriage. Her disappointment—the effect it has upon her health.

IT was near three in the morning before we returned, but the hour gave my aunt no suspicion of what had passed ; and he had so completely persuaded me, that it was for my honour and future happiness to keep it an entire secret, that I was resolved not to divulge it. He returned next day, and brought me a ring, which he told me would unite us for ever ; he put it on, “ and now, said he, my angel, I
 “ hope you are persuaded of my sincerity
 “ — All your apprehensions must now va-
 “ nish, as I hereby declare you my wife in
 “ the face of heaven and earth ; and to-
 “ morrow’s sun shall witness my vows be-
 “ fore the altar.”

I must own that he uttered this with so much

much solemnity, and appeared so perfectly blessed with what had passed the preceding night, that he, at length, persuaded me, there could be no crime in the repetition.

Here, perhaps, in the eyes of the scrupulously virtuous, I was an accessory to his guilt; and though I might before have conscientiously pleaded his treachery, for having robbed me of my virginity, as I now voluntarily made a sacrifice of my chastity, I can no longer urge my innocence, or claim protection at the altar of virtue. But, alas! when it is considered that I was now entirely at his mercy, and that methought prudence told me I should not take any step that might give him the least disgust; I imagined it would be acting contrary to my interest, and that I should in some measure be instrumental in my own ruin, if I refused him any thing he asked.—The reasoning of a girl of seventeen upon such an occasion, added to the importunity of a man possessed of every artifice to impose upon our sex, might easily induce me to throw off any farther reserve to him who had already obtained the first fruits of enjoyment.

Every circumstance united to favour his design.—My aunt was gone to market, and

and had taken the maid with her, so that there was not a soul in the house but he and myself;—he found me in my deshabille, before I had put on my stays, and he followed me into my bed-chamber, whilst I was still at my toilet, and where I could not plead even the danger of rumpling the bed, for it was not yet made.

He caught me in his arms, and, almost drowning me with kisses, threw me upon the bed, whilst, in a kind of trance, I granted all he could desire: we were still in this situation when my aunt rapped at the door, and I had scarce time to adjust my cloaths in such a manner as to give her no suspicion, before she came into my apartment, and gave me a long, and, at present, very tedious account of her marketing, and the preparations she had been making to celebrate my nuptials.

Upon his departure that evening, he promised to come at eight next morning, and accomplish what he had so solemnly vowed. Sleep never approached my eyes that night; such a variety of thoughts forced themselves upon me, which caused a perturbation of mind that would let me no longer remain in bed. As soon as Aurora began to dawn, I rose and dressed myself, and began

gan to make such preparations as were necessary for the expected awful event; every instant seemed a year till eight o'clock struck;—but when that hour was passed, each moment now increased my fears, and I would gladly have recalled even those tedious instants to have been possessed of equal hope.

Nine, ten, eleven, twelve, all struck, but no Mr. Fitzherbert appeared.—I now lost all patience, and dispatched a messenger to his chambers in the temple, to inquire the reason: the porter returned, without being able to see any body, or make any body hear. This was a dagger to my heart; all his treachery at once blazed before me, and I threw myself upon the bed devoted to despair.

My aunt came and attempted to afford me such consolation as she thought might alleviate my affliction; but every argument she offered, so little was she acquainted with the real state of my case, instead of diminishing my sorrow, by far increased it. “She bid me to despise such a wretch who
“had no regard for his promise, and said,
“that, in her opinion, I had a very lucky
“escape, to avoid a man of such base principles.” I should have thought so too, had

her words been completely verified. —
 “ Forget him, said she, there are men e-
 “ nough in the world more valuable than
 “ him; you have youth, beauty and virtue
 “ on your side, which are great recommen-
 “ dations; but more especially the last, as
 “ no woman that possesses it need ever to
 “ despair.” A hundred poignards darted
 at once to my soul at this reflection, my
 tears streamed with double rapidity, and
 my anguish was so great that I swooned, un-
 able to support nature under so arduous a
 conflict.

An apothecary was sent for immediate-
 ly, who bled me, and ordered what he im-
 gined proper medicines for a female deep-
 ly afflicted with an hysterical disorder, which
 he pronounced to be my case. Grief and
 despair reigned with such unlimited sway
 over me, that I very narrowly escaped with
 my life. I was brought to so low a state,
 that I was scarce able to walk at the end
 of six weeks; and a letter, which I receiv-
 ed from my inhuman betrayer, had nearly
 operated as strongly upon me as the first
 cause of my affliction.

A letter she receives from Fitzherbert—her indignation is fired at it—resolves to despise and forget him—re-appears in publick—her hopes revive;—a most fatal discovery, which blasts all her expectations,—her aunt's behaviour upon the occasion.

THE second day after I had got down stairs, having been confined to my room for near six weeks, the post-man rapped at the door, and brought a letter directed to Miss Maria Brown. I trembled from head to foot at the sight of the hand, which I knew to be Fitzherbert's, and had scarce power to break the seal; my aunt would willingly have saved me the trouble, but my apprehensions lest he should have been base enough to hint at any thing that had passed between us to my prejudice, made me take the resolution of perusing it myself.

“ Miss,

“ You will doubtless be surprized to hear from me, after so long an absence, and so

continued a silence ; you have, perhaps, a thousand times upbraided me with perfidy, and those common accusations your sex are so apt to bestow upon those men who are not silly enough to be caught in the flimsy nets of artifice, which you are so constantly employed in working for us.

“ In a word, Madam, I found myself greatly imposed upon, with respect to your fortune and expectancies. Your aunt, and yourself, frequently gave me to understand, that you was heiress to a very ample fortune when you came of age ; whereas, according to the best information which I have had in the neighbourhood where you was born, and where your mother still resides, I find that your father left you only a few hundred pounds. This being the case, you will not think I act an ungenerous part in giving up all pretensions to you, and wishing you all the success your beauty and your merit may intitle you to.

I am, Miss,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

Cork, June

20.

Charles Fitzherbert."

What

What a transition from the extatic transports which he promised himself at the delectable banquet of my charms—a cold phlegmatic letter of bargain and sale, worthy of a horse-jockey in Smithfield! Such indifference from a man on whom I had fixed my heart, whom I looked upon as the partner of my future life, might have prayed upon my spirits, which were still greatly depressed, had not my indignation fired at the insult—I resolved to despise a wretch that could act upon such base, and talk upon such mercenary principles.

I endeavoured to erase the idea of Fitzherbert entirely from my mind, and to this end I once more appeared in publick; every one complimented me upon my recovery, and I thought I had as fair a prospect as ever of making my fortune——when a discovery, which forced itself upon me, blasted all my hopes, and darkened all my future days with black despair.——I was three months gone with child, before I was convinced of my pregnancy, so great a novice was I in affairs of this nature. I had no friend to whom I dared to divulge the secret: my aunt's declared detestation against every slip of chastity, assured me, there I should find no asy-

ham; besides, my influence diminished in proportion as my small fortune lessened: and she had ere now thrown out some hints that she should be obliged very soon to give up house-keeping, as she could not pretend to support it any longer, without some good lodgers; and that she had an offer made her of taking care of an old gentleman's house in the country, which she thought, in her present circumstances, it would be very imprudent for her to refuse.

She had frequently been very inquisitive into the reason of my eating nothing with my tea at breakfast, had put some questions to me concerning some monthly female secrets, and seemed greatly surprised at my frequent reachings; yet she had never taxed me with the fact: but, alas! my apron-string soon became too short, and there was no hiding the cause.

Instead of reading me a lecture without end upon the score of virtue and religion, intermingled with severe reprimands and menaces, as I expected, she seemed to take no sort of notice of the discovery she had made, and I was in hopes I should have been able to have made her connive at the accident, and endeavour to hide my misfortune from the world; but when my expecta-

pectations were in this respect, raised to their highest pinnacle, they were soon levelled with the basis of despair.

She told me one morning, at breakfast, that the house was let, and that she should dispose of her furniture in a fortnight's time, and therefore gave me that notice, that I might provide myself with an apartment in time ; in saying this, she left me very abruptly, to make my reflections upon her conduct.

C H A P. XV.

Her aunt's ingratitude highly exemplified ; a few strictures upon that execrable crime. The step Maria is obliged to take, and the approach of a critical period.

WE never conversed upon the subject of my misfortune till the morning I was to leave my aunt, and repair to a lodging I had taken in Silver-street, Soho. My fortune, as the reader may imagine, was at this time pretty well exhausted,—it consisted of exactly five guineas ; the assistance I had given her, during my residence with her, might very well have intitled me to some share of the money which arose from

the sale of the goods, which she was this very day to receive ; but, in order to prevent my grafting any hopes upon that foundation, she made me the following exhortatory and edifying discourse.

“ I have never yet upbraided you with
 “ your infamy, though it has been shocking
 “ to my sight for some months, and has,
 “ in a great measure, induced me to take
 “ the step I now do of disposing of my
 “ goods to pay my debts, and retire into
 “ the country. But now that I am going
 “ to leave you, and shall perhaps never see
 “ you again, I think it is time for me to say
 “ a few words to you. After the shame
 “ and dishonour you have brought upon
 “ yourself, you cannot expect that any of
 “ your friends or relations can look upon
 “ you ; I should be frightened out of my
 “ senses at the thoughts of your calling me
 “ aunt a month’s hence, when all the world
 “ must be convinced of your prostitution.
 “ There is nothing left for you to do,
 “ but to go and hide yourself in some
 “ corner of the world, where no body
 “ knows you, that you may be no farther
 “ a disgrace to your relations ; and when
 “ you have got rid of that shameful burden,
 “ write to the Abbess of your convent
 “ at

“ at Douay, and endeavour to be re-ad-
 “ mitted, that you may, by a life of exem-
 “ plary piety, endeavour to atone for those
 “ deadly sins you have been guilty of. As
 “ to me, you know my circumstances, it is
 “ not in my power to assist you, if I would.
 “ —Besides, I should think it a very great sin
 “ to encourage vice.—You are a scandal
 “ to religion, honour, and decency ; and
 “ therefore never apply to me, or expect
 “ to hear from me any more.”

Ingratitude is certainly the native off-
 spring of Satan, it could be engendered in
 none but an infernal breast ; it is an epi-
 tome of all the crimes mankind can be
 guilty of : yet it grows and thrives in every
 soil—all professions adopt it—each sex prac-
 tise it. If there is some particular curse a-
 bove destined for the punishment of super-
 lative villainy, this must be the object !

After having expended my small fortune
 in supporting such a monster, she casts me,
 in my greatest distress, upon the world,
 without the ability of any way supporting
 myself. Nay, not only this, but she in-
 forms all my acquaintance of what she has
 discovered, and writes to all my relations,
 to give them the same intimation, that she

may, in her opinion, exculpate her barbarous conduct.

After such an harangue, there required but little ceremony to take leave of such a monster. I turned upon my heel, and left her to the stings and adders which she engendred in her own breast.

The gentlewoman at whose house I had taken a lodging, was one of those good-natured pliant sort of women, who can conform themselves to any thing: though she perceived I was pregnant, she asked me no questions either concerning my marriage, or my husband. This was a very agreeable circumstance to me, for I was very fearful, lest, by her inquisitive interrogations, I might have been obliged to come to such an explanation as would have greatly disconcerted me, and prevented my having any future society with her.

For near two months, then, I passed my time tolerably agreeable with my landlady, though I was not at times without some very mortifying reflections at the silence my mother observed, notwithstanding I had wrote her several letters. At the end of this period I found my money all gone, and myself very near my time.

C H A P. XVI.

Acquaints her landlady with her situation and distress—who procures her a ticket for the lying-in hospital—is delivered there—her child dies.—Her acquaintance with Mrs. Freemantle, and her affecting story.

IT was in vain now to make a secret to my landlady of my present situation; she, in some measure, anticipated the necessity I was under of disclosing my mind. She observed to me, without any sort of ceremony, that it was high time, if I had not already done it, to prepare some child-bed linen, for that, if she judged right, I must be very near my time. I was very well convinced of the rectitude of her observation; but in my present situation I was unable to follow her advice. As I had found her so good a sort of woman, I resolved to disclose my mind, and tell her the truth. She said, if that was the case, she believed she could make interest for me to get into the lying-in hospital, where I should be at no expence; and she accordingly procured me a ticket.

I was 3

I was very well received there, considering it was an hospital; but, notwithstanding the care and attention of the doctors, the child died the third day after its birth; which was occasioned, no doubt by my illness immediately after my pregnancy, and the succeeding anxiety of mind I laboured under.

Whilst I remained in the hospital, I had sufficient time to ruminate upon my past follies, the treachery and deceit of man and woman kind: however, my disagreeable moments were in some measure alleviated by the acquaintance I here made with an agreeable woman, who was come upon the same errand as myself; but whose history was, in many respects, very different from mine: she had something in her so extremely engaging, that I could not help being highly prepossessed in her favour, and very desirous of being acquainted with her story, which she entertained me with one day when we were all alone; and it made so great an impression on me, that I can still remember many particulars of it.

“ My father, said she, was a wealthy
 “ farmer in the county of Essex, who had
 “ four daughters and a son; of the former
 “ number I made one. We were brought

“ up

“ up in a manner suitable to our station ;
 “ my mother designing her daughters for
 “ good house-wives, and her son for an
 “ honest farmer. We were neither taught
 “ French, to dance, nor fine needle-work ;
 “ so that we retained all the rusticity of our
 “ station when we arrived at years of ma-
 “ turity. I was in my eighteenth year,
 “ when a gentleman who was upon a visit
 “ to the squire, took a walk one morning
 “ into our yard, and spoke to me whilst I
 “ was churning : he asked me some ques-
 “ tions concerning poultry, and I answered
 “ him with all the genuine simplicity of a
 “ country-lass. I had, at that time, not the
 “ most distant notion of love, nor could I
 “ conceive that he entertained any
 “ thoughts of me upon that score. How-
 “ ever, the next day I received a letter from
 “ him, couched in such a stile that I could
 “ scarce understand ; yet I comprehended
 “ enough to know he meant a great many
 “ fine compliments upon my person and
 “ good housewifery, which, he said, he
 “ thought the greatest commendation in a
 “ wife. This letter threw me into the ut-
 “ most perplexity, as he strongly pressed
 “ me to make him some answer ; and be-
 “ sides my ignorance of writing in a man-
 “ ner

“ ner proper for such a fine gentleman to
 “ read, I conceived it would be very for-
 “ ward and improper for a girl of my years
 “ to attempt such a thing. I was rumina-
 “ ting upon this matter, when I saw him
 “ approach our house ; I ran as hard as pos-
 “ sible, and locked myself into the pantry.
 “ From my ambush I heard him ask for
 “ my father, and I was now more terrified
 “ lest he should discover to him that he
 “ had wrote me a letter, which I had not
 “ acquainted my mother with. After he
 “ was gone, my father called me up, and
 “ told me, if I was a good girl I should
 “ have a silk gown at Easter ; but that I
 “ must say nothing to my sisters about it :
 “ this information could not fail puzzling
 “ me more than all the rest, and I was
 “ upon the rack to know what had passed
 “ between the gentleman and my father.
 “ The next morning my mother took me
 “ aside, and asked me, with very good na-
 “ ture in her countenance, if I had not
 “ seen a strange gentleman come to my
 “ father the day before ? I answered, Yes.
 “ Why then, said she, how should you like
 “ him for a husband ? I told her, I could
 “ not tell ; but that he seemed to me a very
 “ agreeable man. Why look ye,” conti-
 nued

nued she, " he has been talking to your fa-
 " ther about you, and has made such pro-
 " posals as cannot be refused, if you have
 " no dislike to him. At this information
 " my little heart fluttered to that degree
 " that I was unable to make her any an-
 " swer; but the colouring and perplexity
 " she conceived I was in, made her very
 " readily and justly conclude, that my mo-
 " desty prevented my answering her in a
 " manner agreeable to my thoughts; so
 " that she left me, saying, " Well, I shall
 " bring you together, and then you may
 " settle it between you." " She was as
 " good as her word, for the very next af-
 " ternoon the gentleman paid me a visit in
 " form, and we were left together. He
 " then said to me so many tender and a-
 " greeable things, that I do not recollect
 " half of them at present; but the sub-
 " stance of them was, that he should be
 " the happiest man upon earth, if I would
 " vouchsafe to give him my hand in mar-
 " riage. Though my bashfulness pre-
 " vented me giving him an answer which
 " my innocence would have dictated; he
 " construed my silence into consent, and,
 " clasping me in his arms, he gave a thou-
 " sand

“ sand kisses, which seemed the sweetest I
 “ ever knew in my life. This gentleman,
 “ whose name and situation in life I was by
 “ this time acquainted with, was Mr.
 “ Freemantle, a considerable merchant in
 “ Coleman-street; so that I had reason to
 “ go down upon my knees, and thank
 “ heaven for the great happiness that
 “ seemed prepared for me. We were mar-
 “ ried in a very short time, and continued
 “ the most fond pair that ever heaven
 “ united for more than seven years, during
 “ which time I bore him three children,
 “ who are all now living. I was again preg-
 “ nant, when an unexpected misfortune
 “ destroyed all our felicity, and rendered
 “ me as miserable as you now see me. For
 “ my father had unfortunately about two
 “ years before met with a considerable loss
 “ by the murrain raging amongst his cattle,
 “ and not being able to make good his pay-
 “ ments, he was turned out of his farm,
 “ and had subsisted for some time upon
 “ Mr. Freemantle’s generous assistance;
 “ but the calamity now was, that Mr. Free-
 “ mantle was no longer able to assist him,
 “ or himself either.

“ Three different failures abroad, where-

“ in-

“ in he was very deeply concerned, and
 “ two at home, rendered him unable to
 “ make good his payments: he was de-
 “ clared a bankrupt; and though his
 “ known good character and constant up-
 “ rightness of conduct in business had al-
 “ ways secured him from malice and ca-
 “ lumny; yet two of his creditors were so
 “ malevolent that they would not sign his
 “ certificate. He went abroad, and in a
 “ short time died of grief, when I was in
 “ the eighth month of my pregnancy; and
 “ the only resource I had was this hospital,
 “ where I have been delivered.”

C H A P. XVII.

Some reflections upon the erroneous custom
 of the world, illustrated with the sketch
 of a few modern characters drawn from
 real life.

ONE might be inclined to imagine that
 our sex had drawn upon them the
 particular vengeance of heaven, and yet we
 could have no hand in bringing on the
 judgment upon the city of Gomorrah; but
 we seem to be pointed out the peculiar ob-
 jects of punishment for natural crimes, if
 such

such there are. A man may live by gaming, be known for a prostitute of our sex, may fail in trade, and defraud his creditors; nay, he may be guilty of murder, under certain modifications, and yet the generality of the world will neither despise him, nor discountenance him. On the contrary, if he should happen to be successful in the course of his villainy, he will be cherished and esteemed by those who class themselves among the honest and worthy. But, alas! if we do but once deviate from the track delineated by custom on the chart of chastity (which, if any, is but a subordinate virtue), if we attempt to pass but one barrier without paying toll, or only mistake the intended barrier, we are arraigned at the bar of *honour*, and our *reputation* is pronounced irreparable by a jury of *prudes* and *old maids*!

To illustrate this by examples: Jack Gayless started upon the town with a hundred pounds for his patrimony, he laid out two-thirds of his fortune in a suit of velvet, one trimmed, and a plain pompadour, half a dozen pair of silk stockings, two pair of point ruffles, a sword, and Hoyle's games complete. He was master of an insinuating address, he constantly sacrificed his
sentiments

sentiments to good breeding, and applauded with a scringe. Jack was taken notice of by a man of fashion, who introduced him to lady N——'s rout; this was sufficient, he had cards on every hand as invitations; by a proper change of his cloaths, throwing in a fresh parament, or new waistcoat, he appeared to have as great a variety of cloaths as any man in town; the world judge by appearances, and no one questioned his being a man of fashion. Tho' he had the good luck to be thus speedily initiated into the best company, he as yet derived no other advantage from it than wearing out his cloaths by the friction of lace and embroidery, and having opportunities of saying civil things to the first and finest women in England. He foresaw his destiny; he had now broke in upon the last ten pounds he was possessed of, and only to have hinted to his introducer that he was in distress, would have been sufficient to have removed all future regard towards him. In this dilemma he was upon the point of terminating a life that wore so very unfavourable a prospect; he had absolutely charged his pistol, and was upon the desperate, tremendous brink of eternity, when a thought entered his head

head that made him defer the execution of this dreadful plan. He applied to the conjuror, and gave him one half of his fortune, to teach him his dexterity. Jack was an apt scholar, and tho' he had perused Mr. Hoyle with great attention, and understood his treatise perhaps better than the writer did himself, he had never yet reaped any advantage from his knowledge; he constantly lost his money, as he constantly held bad cards. But now the scene was changed, he had matadors at will, and sanspriendres at command; he soon recruited his finances, unloaded his pistol, and is now in every sense a *real man of fortune*.

Captain H—— has been upon half-pay these seven years, he laid out all his fortune in the purchase of this commission, and run in debt for mere *subsistence*, till he was taken notice of by Mrs. L——, who afforded him full pay, and good quarters. He makes no secret of his connexion, and all the world is acquainted with his resources. When his taylor brings him home a new suit of cloaths, he draws upon his female banker, and she does honour to his draught; his coach-maker throws the Captain and chariot into her bill, and he thus drives thro' life in luxury and extravagance, without

out any one arraigning or disputing his honour. His trades-people give him the best of reputations ; and his friends, who are of the most elevated sort, pronounce him a very honest fellow, and much of a Gentleman.

Dick Cone was bred a wholesale grocer, he married a woman the first year he set up with 10,000 l. and broke the next for 20 : his wife died the third year, and his credit revived with his second nuptials ; five thousand pounds, which matrimony again threw into his coffers, enabled him to open a new shop, and carry on trade with as much vigour as ever. But there is a fatality in some men's affairs ; he failed once more, and once more made a composition of five shillings in the pound. Dick's probity has never yet been called in question ; he is again established in an extensive trade and full credit.

How contrasted to these is the fate of the unhappy Leonora ! Though she has been guilty of no vice, and is not susceptible of a crime, she is shunned by the women, and laughed at by the men. She acted, in her opinion, upon the most virtuous plan a woman could pursue ; she would listen to no man till he offered her his

his hand in marriage : yet she was as distant from a prude, as she was different from a coquet ; she neither attempted to make the men believe that the very sight of them terrified her, or that every man who came into her company would find no difficulty, the first opportunity he had, of putting the question : she pursued the desirable medium, and at length listened to a man who had all the appearance of making her happy. In a word, they were married at the Savoy chapel ; the marriage proved to be void by law, and she has undergone all the rigour of the most severe sentence upon the most criminal conduct. Poor Leonora !—But why do I pity her, and forget myself ? Is not my case still more cruel !——With how much justice may I cry out with the author of my motto,

Under how hard a fate are women born?
 Prais'd to their ruin, or expos'd to scorn.
 If they want beauty, they of love despair,
 And are besieg'd like frontier towns, if fair.

C H A P. XVIII.

Mrs. Freeman's friendship to Maria; recommends her to lady Bentley, as a companion upon her voyage to Paris. Their journey.

THE reflections in the last chapter may seem somewhat premature for a woman (for such I must now consider myself) of my age; but though they were not made perhaps entirely at that time, they certainly must be allowed to be no way inapplicable.

To resume my history. Upon my return from the hospital, I found my landlady had taken particular care of my cloaths, and what belonged to me; and though she knew I was not at present able to make her amends for her kindness and assiduity, she nevertheless took every opportunity of demonstrating her friendship to me. She told me to be careful of my health, and to consider that providence seemed to interpose in my behalf, by taking that young cherubim, which I had given to the world, to a happier lot than any mortal can here possess. In a word,

word, she used all her endeavours to afford me consolation in my distress, saying at the same time “ she was under no apprehension about the trifle of rent I was indebted to her, and therefore bid me be under no kind of uneasiness upon that score; and that she did not doubt but she should soon be able to procure me a place to wait upon a Lady, as she had very good friends in the best of families, having served as housekeeper for many years in one of the first of distinction.”

Mrs. Freeman (that was my landlady’s name) was in a short time as good as her word; she told me, there was a Lady going over to Paris, who wanted a companion who had been well brought up, and could speak French; and she said she thought I was thoroughly qualified for the station. She accordingly gave me the Lady’s direction, and I waited upon her the next day.

Lady Bentley seemed completely satisfied with me upon Mrs. Freeman’s recommendation, and we agreed for twenty pounds a year, with all expences of the journey defrayed. We were to set out for France in a week’s time, and I had there-

therefore but a very short time to prepare myself for the voyage.

I took my leave of Mrs. Freeman, after repeated protestations of future friendship, and coming to a resolution of keeping up our correspondence by letters whilst I should be abroad.

We met with nothing remarkable in our journey to Dover, without I were to mention the post-chaise breaking down a little this side Canterbury, which greatly terrified Lady Bentley, and frightened her favourite lap-dog almost into fits. But all the company having soon recovered, we arrived at the ship-tavern with keen appetites, and a fair wind for Calais. We had scarce time to swallow a hasty supper, when we were summoned to go on board the packet, which was just ready to sail.

Though the wind was very fair when we got out of Dover-pier, it soon chopped about, and we were obliged to put back to the Downs. It now blew very fresh, and there was what the sailors call a great swell. Her Ladyship had scarce got out of Dover-pier, before she evinced the emetic qualities of the seas; so that her sickness was in some measure abated when the billows began to roar, and she heard *all hands aloft*;

she had now time to reflect upon her danger, and she very religiously went upon her knees, and most fervently prayed to be preserved from her present danger, promising never again to dare the perils of the main.

Her Ladyship's devotion continued during our whole passage, and, for the good of her soul, it were to have been wished that she had made an East-India voyage; for no sooner did she set foot on shore at Calais, than she resumed her former gaiety, and never cast another thought towards futurity.

Monsieur *Grandfire* did all that lay in his power to accommodate her Ladyship, agreeable to her rank and dignity; and after we had staid two nights and part of the second day, he was so very condescending as to oblige my mistress with his own post-chaise, which had never yet been used; for which, it may be imagined, he did not forget to charge her in proportion to her quality; our bill, besides the hire of the post-chaise, amounted to above three hundred livres.

Lady Bentley had not the curiosity to stop a moment upon the road till we came to Chantilli, so impatient was she to get to Paris; but the chateau and gardens of the
Prince

Prince de Conde greatly attracted her sight, and she could not refrain from alighting to view them. In truth, they were well worth the time we employed in the inspection, as the chateau of Chantilli may be pronounced one of the first and most elegant seats in France.

C H A P. XIX.

Arrive at Paris. The impositions that are attempted to be put upon Lady Bentley, detected by Maria, who is notwithstanding supplanted in her favour by a French chambermaid. A lively description of the manner of an English Lady of fashion passing her time at Paris, in a letter from Miss Brown to Mrs. Freeman.

UPON our arrival at Paris we were lodged in a *hôtel-garni*, in the Fauxbourg of St. Germain, and we were presently waited upon by all those leeches who call themselves *marchands*, and who accumulate fortunes by fleecing foreigners, particularly the English. Lady Bentley spoke very little French, having never been in France, and was therefore utterly ignorant as well of the manner as the coin of the

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country ;

country ; so that every moment would have furnished opportunities to those who were desirous of imposing upon her, had she not had a person with her more conversant in both than herself. As by speaking the language very fluently, and knowing the difference of the coins, they were kept in some sort of awe, so I had frequent overtures made me indirectly by these *tricheurs*, to cheat as much as we could, and share of the spoils ; but I constantly rejected such infamous proposals with the resentment they deserved, and always acquainted my Lady with the parties that had made them.

Notwithstanding my honest and upright conduct towards her, a French chambermaid found means to gain so much upon her confidence, that from the moment she came into the house I found my advice rejected, and all regard towards me daily diminishing.

In the mean while, it may not be unentertaining to the reader to know how we passed our time at Paris, the center of English folly, and the point of gravity of English guineas. I believe I shall not be able to convey a better idea of our vocations and avocations here, than by transcribing a letter to Mrs. Freeman, which I wrote upon
the

the spot, when I was a complete mistress of the subject, after a month's sojourning in this metropolis.

DEAR MADAM,

YOU will doubtless accuse me of forgetfulness, if not ingratitude, for having preserved so long and so profound a silence; I must acknowledge it was not for want of matter to write, for one can turn on no side but objects sufficient present themselves to discant upon in a folio. The truth is, this metropolis abounds so much with dissipation and frivolity, one has scarce time to think, much less to write. Our morning is taken up, like all the Paris Ladies, in endeavouring to make ourselves hideous; we paint, not to look handsome, but to be in the fashion; every woman is intitled to rouge, in proportion to her quality; and they have so thoroughly reconciled themselves to the custom, that their public writers reason upon it philosophically: "When Cæsar made his triumphant entry into Rome, he made use of it; and a pretty woman should consider every day as a day of triumph for her." Thus says one of their favourite authors, and every woman here is convinced of the rectitude

of his maxim. But, to continue our journal: our face is not the only object of our morning-attention, the head makes a very essential part of the toilet, and takes up no small share of the forenoon; sometimes indeed it lays claim to a greater part of the business of the day, than all our pleasures and amusements. My Lady has actually been under the hand of Monsieur Frisonette ever since nine o'clock, and it is now half past one; she will be ready for dinner (at least it will be ready for her) in half an hour. She will have the Marquis de Tarafiné, the Comte le Beau, and the Abbe le Moux, who will say a thousand soft things to her, sing her all the new airs, perhaps sit down to quadrille, and win all her money: if this should be the case, as it has often been, I may in all likelihood be dispatched with her casquet to Mendez for a new recruit, to brave the metadors, who have ever yet been inexorable to her prayers; and about two in the morning she may go to rest, very little disposed for it, with a light purse and a heavy heart.

Perhaps you may think this a very odd way of living in a foreign country, whither people resort for pleasure and improvement; you may conceive, that, if we go on
so,

so, we shall return without having had much satisfaction, or reaping any other advantage than the killing of time, at the price of our money. But we go to-morrow to Versailles, and as I know you have always expressed a desire to know whether the beauty and elegance of that palace came up to the accounts of travellers, especially Frenchmen, I shall have an opportunity of satisfying your curiosity in this respect. From hence we shall follow the court to Fontainebleau and Compeigne. Believe me,

DEAR MADAM,

Your's affectionately,

M. Brown.

C H A P. XX.

A jaunt to Versailles, with some short account of that celebrated place. An accident which terminates in Maria's dismissal from Lady Bentley's service.

WE went next day to Versailles, agreeable to the plan of the Marquis de Tarafiné, who accompanied us, in order to shew us the apartments, and every thing

that was curious. He informed us of the immense sums Lewis XIV. had expended to raise that palace, and convert the gardens into the form we saw them; the difficulty he had of bringing water thither, contrary to the course of nature, for the use of the basons and the *jets-d'eau*. In a word, that, from a poor contemptible village, whose name was scarce known even at Paris, he had rendered it one of the most magnificent places in all Europe. It is true that we found the building very sumptuous, the gallery extremely elegant, and the painting of the ceiling particularly fine; but that in general the furniture was very ancient, and there was neither that neatness, nor what the French themselves call that *air-riant*, which is so striking in the apartments of all our elegant edifices in England. As to the gardens, they were doubtless extremely well laid out; but the walks were insupportably dusty, for want of gravel; many of the statues were mutilated, and most of the water-works were in a state of inactivity, by reason of the pipes being out of repair. Upon the whole, it conveyed to us at once an idea of Lewis the Fourteenth's ambition, the sentiments of glory wherewith he animated the whole kingdom,

dom, and the present degeneracy of the French nation.

Whilst we were at Versailles an accident happened, which, though very trivial in itself, was not only the cause of my rupture with Lady Bentley, but, in some measure, of all the misfortunes which afterwards befell me. Lady Bentley had already adopted every part of French gallantry; she could hang upon a French Cavalier's arm in public, receive him at her *ruelle* in private, listen to *double-entendres*, and sometimes risque them herself. Nay, she had no objection to a tête-party, or even a retreat into a sylvan grove distant from intruders, to hear the voice of love. The Marquis had told her, that the labyrinth would greatly divert her, and that he would wager a hundred louis that she did not find her way out all alone. Though she did not accept of the bett, she however resolved to attempt the task, and I was left with *Romeo* whilst the experiment was made.

Romeo! cruel Romeo! how could you leave me! ruin me! desert me! It is very true, Romeo ran away from me, and I was undone. Lady Bentley was gone near an hour and a half, and upon her return, though I had no reason to suspect that she

was ruffled either in her temper or any way else; yet so it was, that all the reasoning I was mistress of could not calm her rage; her *lap-dog* was gone, and I positively should go after it. A chapter would not contain all the opprobrious epithets I was insulted with upon this occasion, which she the more lavishly poured out upon me, as the Marquis was ignorant of English, and consequently what she said.

Our journey back to Paris, whither we returned instead of continuing our route to Fontainebleau, in hopes of gaining some intelligence of Romeo, was very dusty and disagreeable; we heard of nothing but the dog, and the loss of the finest creature upon earth, all the way; the Marquis's utmost endeavours to solace her Ladyship were ineffectual.

Being returned to the metropolis, she dispatched messengers to every quarter of the city in quest of her favourite; and at the end of two days no tidings being brought her of him, there were no bounds to her passion. I was compelled to leave her; she ordered me out of the house, and swore I should never set foot in it again, except I brought Romeo with me.

C H A P. XXI.

The picture of a finished coquette ; the advances Fitzherbet makes to her, and the success of the addresses which he pays to her. An unexpected blow at the crisis of his fate, very proper to be perused with attention by every coxcomb within the bills of mortality.

WHO knows not the amiable, the enchanting Annabella, the toast of the gay and polite, the envy of one half of her sex, and the subject of scandal for the other ? She was just now in the meridian of her glory, followed and dangled after by every puppy of fashion, who fancied an embroidered coat or a feather intitled him to enchant every woman who looked at him. Annabella had too much good sense and discernment to be captivated by such external recommendations, she despised such suitors at the time they imagined they had made a complete conquest of her heart ; she played them off, one against the other, each fancying himself the only happy man, and each equally duped by his presumption. This was certainly the very
summit.

summit of coquetry ; but she refined the character, and almost made it amiable. That there are men in the world who richly merit such treatment, the reader is, I doubt not, by this time thoroughly convinced. What if Fitzherbert should be found amongst the number of her suitors, he who fancied, from his past success, that he was intitled to captivate all the sex, and make them submit at discretion ? It was even so, the perfidious Charles was at length caught in those foils, which he had so often thrown out. Annabella was not insensible to his merit, she approved of his person, and could not refrain from commending his wit ; but she knew his character, and was resolved to recriminate the anguish of her sex. She was perhaps the woman of the world the most suited for the task ; for, besides the force of her charms, she was composed of such a temperament as to be inflexible to passion : a man might languish and die for months, ere she vented a single sympathetic sigh ; she was a salamander amidst fire, a stoic in love ; in a word, a finished coquette.

Such a picture of Annabella may be thought perhaps severe upon her ; but distributive justice requires such characters in society.

society. To crown her charms, and render her power irresistible, she had fifteen thousand pounds in her own possession.

Fitzherbert had now been the foremost upon the list of her lovers for some months, without ever being able to get an absolute answer from her, upon a question which he had put to her almost as often as he had an opportunity of being at a tête-à-tête. Without convincing him on her part, she was studious to give him indirect hints that she entertained a favourable passion for him. Whilst he was one day strenuously urging his suit upon his knees, and calling all the powers above to witness of the sincerity of his love, Sir George Airy unexpectedly entered ; Sir George had the day before obtained a promise from her, that she never would give her hand to any man but himself. Enraged at what he beheld, his passion would scarce give him leave to express it by words ; he was colouring red and white alternately, and calling forth all his philosophy to smother the effects of his violence, when Annabella took an opportunity of saying, she really thought Sir George laboured under some very violent agitation, and begged, if it was possible, that she might administer him some relief. “ Ma-
“ dam,

“dam, said he, let me cut that fellow’s
 “throat, and I shall be easy presently.”—
 “Indeed, Sir George, she replied, I have
 “no manner of aversion to it, if he is
 “agreeable.” Fitzherbert fired at this con-
 versation, his sword was unsheathed ere
 Annabella had finished her answer. “Sir,
 “said he to the Knight, if you think cut-
 “ting my throat will give you any relief,
 “you are extremely welcome.” By this
 time they had begun to thrust, and Anna-
 bella thought it was time to ring the bell,
 to prevent any inhuman blood being spilt;
 the servants did not however come time
 enough to prevent Sir George’s receiving a
 wound in the sword-arm.

This was a triumph to Fitzherbert,
 which he did not fail to turn to his advan-
 tage; he pleaded with double urgency his
 passion, he pleaded his service, nay he
 pleaded his courage: he rallied the troops
 in the service of his merits in so warlike a
 manner, that he vanquished all Annabella’s
 objections, and made her capitulate to sur-
 render the garrison of love, with all her
 charms, upon a carte-blanche of matrimo-
 ny, the succeeding Wednesday.

The trophies of Fitzherbert’s victories
 were displayed in every mercer’s shop in
 town;

town; he ransacked Ludgate-hill and Covent-garden, to testify his adoration of Annabella; she courteously accepted of his presents. The whole art of his taylor was exhausted to display his taste in a wedding-suit.

The auspicious morn at length arrived, his new-gilt chariot was at Annabella's door by seven; she had been at a route the night before, and could not be disturbed for some hours. He languished at a neighbouring coffee-house till eleven, dispatching messengers every quarter of an hour, to know if the empress of his heart was yet stirring. Unable any longer to brook, delay, he repairs again to her house; she is still invisible; he insists upon seeing her, having something of the last consequence to impart; forces himself into her apartment; she testifies her surprise at his insolence; he reminds her of her promise, and how dangerous half an hour's delay may be.—She has entirely forgot every syllable, and rallies his presumption; he, much enraged, upbraids her perfidy.—Her servants are called, he undergoes the discipline of the blanket, and is bastinadoed out of doors into his new gilt chariot.

Such was the substance of a letter I received.

ceived about this time from Mrs. Freeman, which failed not to divert my melancholy, at a period that I had most occasion for a mental cordial. I must acknowledge that Annabella's behaviour to Fitzherbert highly gratified the just resentment I bore him; and I wrote the very next post to my worthy correspondent, to beg she should acquaint herself with the sequel of this affair, in hopes to learn that he had terminated a villainous life by a means that gives the finishing-stroke to cowardice and infamy.

C H A P. XXII.

The treatment she meets with from Madam la Roffiere. The step she takes in consequence. Renews her acquaintance with an Irish officer's widow. The imposition that is practised upon her, and the distress wherein it terminates.

AFTER my dismissal from lady Bentley's service, I took up my lodging with Madam la Roffiere her milliner, in hopes that I should be able soon to obtain another place amongst the English nobility, who daily increased at Paris. Madam la Roffiere was very civil to me for some time; but

but finding that, after remaining there about six weeks, I was still unprovided for, she very frankly told me, she was unable any longer to support me, as she had not work enough to employ herself and her daughter, and begged that I would seek for another lodging. I was greatly mortified at this address from Madam la Rosfiere, to whom I had been particularly instrumental in procuring Lady Bentley's custom, and who had recommended her to a great number of English Ladies; but I found ingratitude was the growth of every soil, and that all the professions of friendship Madam la Rosfiere had made me consisted of nothing but the superficial unmeaning *politesse Française*.

I told her very laconically, that "I was
 " sorry for the trouble I had given her;
 " but I would take care that it should be
 " of no long duration." Her husband came in just at this juncture, and finding me preparing to depart, asked, with some surprise in his countenance, *What was the matter, and where I was going?* I told him how Madam la Rosfiere had behaved to me, and that he could not expect I should be any farther inconvenience to her. Mr. la Rosfiere seemed highly exasperated at his

his wife's conduct, and swore *that I should not leave his house till such time as I was provided for.*

This declaration from him brought more natural colour into his wife's face than she had conferred upon it, even by art; and *rouge* for once was totally eclipsed by passion. "How Sir, said she, is it so!—" "What then you have discovered at last
 "the shameful correspondence you carry
 "on with this abandoned jade! and you,
 "Madam, you impudent slut, to do it under my very nose. No, you shall either
 "leave the house, or I will; and let us
 "see to whom he gives the preference,
 "to his trull, or to his wife."

It was in vain for Mr. la Rosfiere to attempt vindicating himself, all remonstrance was unheard, drowned in a continued chain of reproach and insult. Under these circumstances I thought it was acting the prudent part for me to retire, without undeceiving a jealous woman, who had no other grounds for her suspicions than her own deformity, and my comparative excellence.

Having taken a *fiacre*, I drove to the *Rue St. Antoine*, where I had a slight acquaintance with an Irish officer's widow,
 who

who was very glad to see me, and, upon relating my story, expressed herself with much concern, that “ I, who was born of
 “ a good family, should form any connex-
 “ ions with such *canaille*, as hair-dressers
 “ wives, and milliners ; had you, continued
 “ she, applied to me, when you quitted
 “ Lady Bentley’s service, I should have be-
 “ haved to you like a gentlewoman as you
 “ are, and you would not have been ex-
 “ posed to this insult.”

This harangue upon the subject of gentility and good behaviour continued near half an hour, and would, in all likelihood, have been the topic for much more animadversion, had she not recollected “ it
 “ was dinner-time, and that she had not
 “ been yet to market ; but that the *Traiteur*,
 “ across the way, was reckoned to serve
 “ very elegantly, and paid a particular de-
 “ ference to the English ; and therefore beg-
 “ ged she might make use of my name, as
 “ it would be of no small recommendati-
 “ on.”

Mrs. Obrien was so condescending as to take the trouble of ordering dinner, which was presently served, and which she failed not to pay due honour to. As to myself, I was so chagrined at the treatment I had
 just

just met with from Madam la Rosfiere, that the fulness of my heart supplied all vacuity of stomach.

I had been a week with Mrs. Obrien before I observed that every thing we had lived upon was entirely upon my score, when the *Traiteur*, who never gave credit but from one week to another, brought in his bill, and, with great submission, asking some thousand of pardons, with as many thousand *obéissances*, “ hoped I should not “ be offended at the liberty he had taken.” The liberty I could easily have forgiven, if he would as easily the debt, which was neither more nor less than *seventy-two livres*. I expressed great surprise at my name being at the head of the bill, telling him I was no lodger there, but a casual visitor, a guest of Madam Obrien’s, &c. He said he did not know any thing of the matter; but that Madam Obrien would not have obtained a single *aricot* upon her own account, for that she was already greatly in his debt; and he would not depart till I had given him an assurance I would see him paid.

Upon Madam Obrien’s return from mass, I could not help upbraiding her with her ungenerous behaviour, which had led me to the creation of so great a debt; and

I at the same time expressed my uneasiness to think how it was to be paid, as all the money I had in the world amounted to no more than fifty livers. Her fruitful imagination immediately pointed out to me the method of creating money; and she hinted that my best sack and petticoat would procure double the sum that was required. This proposal was very far from being agreeable to me, and I could not help retaliating the compliment, in advising her to try first what she could get for one of her own; but she prevented my insisting much upon her making this experiment, by frankly acknowledging, “ that she was
 “ not possessed of any other than that
 “ which she wore; and that she would not
 “ have continued in mourning so long
 “ without any real cause, except that of
 “ poverty, if she had been able to make
 “ any change in her dress: that the pension which she received, as an officer’s widow, was so small, and so irregularly paid, that she was driven to great
 “ straits; but that she was upon the
 “ point of recovering a very considerable
 “ legacy, when she should appear in a very
 “ different manner; and when I might
 “ make

“ make her house my home, without any ceremony or expence.”

These and such like persuasives, added to that powerful advocate *eating* (for dinner-time had long since been elapsed, without Monsieur *le Traiteur*’s paying us his usual attention) at length prevailed upon me to follow Mrs. Obrien’s advice.

Vices and follies familiarize themselves to us by degrees; and what at first appeared to me worse than death, was gradually so softened in its asperity, that in a few weeks I was reduced to that state of mourning, which Mrs. Obrien so justly complained of.

It was in vain for me to upbraid her with imposing upon me by false pretences and groundless hopes; it was time for me to think of altering my condition, and procuring subsistence by some other means than those which I had lately pursued. With this resolution I decamped one morning whilst Mrs. Obrien was gone to mass, without taking any other leave of her than by a note, which I left upon her table. I found no great difficulty of moving, as every thing I was possessed of was now upon my back.

C H A P. XXIII.

The acquaintanoe Miss Brown makes in the Thuilleries; their conversation, which produces a closer connexion. Goes home with her benefactress. Some account of her boarders, and their behaviour. An uncommon conflict.

I HAD traversed half Paris without knowing whither I was destined, when, finding myself very tired, I repaired to the Thuilleries, in order to rest myself, and took my seat upon the terrass of the Capuchins. I had not been here long before a decent-looking woman, neatly dressed, came and placed herself by me. We saluted each other, and entered into that sort of conversation which usually occurs between two people who have a mind to speak when they have nothing to say. "Dear me! Miss, said she, don't you find it very sultry?" "extremely hot, indeed Madam, I replied; but I think we have now and then here a refreshing breeze." "True, Miss, said she, I think we have chosen the best seat we could for what little air there is. What a sight of people there will be to-morrow at St. Cloud

" Cloud, if this fine weather continues!"
 " No doubt of it, answered I, Madam."
 " Upon my word, Miss, now I look at you,
 " methinks your features are quite familiar
 " to me; have not I had the pleasure of
 " seeing you in Brittany?" " No, Ma-
 " dam, I never was in that part of France."
 " Well, to be sure, Miss, you are the very
 " model of a young Lady that I knew at
 " Nantes: I could almost have sworn you
 " had been the same; and the comparison,
 " I can assure you, Miss, is no affront to
 " you, for she is the toast of the whole city."
 " You are extremely polite, Madam, said
 " I, you are pleased to compliment; but if
 " it were so, of what use would it be to
 " me?" In uttering these words, a sigh
 escaped me, which was followed by some
 involuntary tears. " What, my dear child,
 " said she (in an affectionate tone of voice,
 " squeezing my hand) you cry? What is
 " it that makes you uneasy? Has any
 " misfortune happened to you? Tell me,
 " my dear, don't be afraid of opening your
 " mind to me; you may rely upon the af-
 " fection which you have kindled in me:
 " can I be of any service to you? Pray tell
 " me. Let us go, my life, to the coffee-
 " house at the end of the terrass, and
 " breakfast;

“ breakfast; perhaps I may be of more
 “ service to you than you think for.” This
 proposal was far from being disagreeable
 to me, as I was still fasting; and I follow-
 ed her, not doubting that heaven had sent
 her in my way, to snatch me from the
 brink of despair. After I had in some mea-
 sure recruited my spirits with two dishes of
 coffee, and a couple of little loaves, I frank-
 ly told her my present distress, and asked
 her, if she could recommend me to a ser-
 vice of any kind, I did not care how mean
 it was, provided I could but get my lively-
 hood in an honest way. “ By the holy
 “ Virgin! cried my unknown benefactress,
 “ it would be an absolute martyrdom to
 “ think of putting such a sweet creature as
 “ you to hard work; no, nature did not
 “ design you for such employment. It is
 “ needless to dissemble with you, such a fine
 “ girl as you are may aspire at any thing; and
 “ there is not the least doubt, but that, if you
 “ will let yourself be guided by me, you will
 “ make your fortune in a very short time.”
 “ Ah! my good Lady, (I cried in rapture)
 “ tell me only what you would have me do,
 “ and I will be bound to follow it; I’ll re-
 “ sign myself entirely to your direction.”

“ Well then, said she, we will live together ;
 “ I have already four boarders, and you
 “ shall make the fifth.” “ What ! Madam,
 “ (I answered with some precipitation) have
 “ you already forgot, that in my present
 “ distressed situation it will be impossible
 “ for me to pay you a penny for my board ?”
 “ Don’t let that give you any uneasiness
 “ (she replied) ; all that I ask of you at pre-
 “ sent is, that you will submit yourself to
 “ my direction. I shall take you as a part-
 “ ner in a little traffic which I carry on ;
 “ and, please God, I don’t doubt, before
 “ the end of the month, you will be able
 “ not only to satisfy me, but to support
 “ yourself in every respect in a genteel
 “ manner.” In the excess of my joy I was
 ready to throw myself at her feet, and bathe
 them with tears. I longed to be initiated
 into this happy society ; thanks to my lucky
 stars, my impatience was not of any great
 duration. Twelve o’clock struck, and we
 left the Thuilleries at the gate Des Feuill-
 lants. An old coachman upon the stand
 received us into his noble vehicle, and he
 conducted us to a retired house upon the
 Boulevards, facing the street Montmartre.

The house was surrounded by a court
 and

and a garden, which gave it a rural appearance, that prejudiced me highly in favour of the inhabitants, and I secretly blessed the lucky occasion that had been instrumental in conducting me to this retreat. I was introduced into a parlour that was very decently furnished, and my companions presently made their appearance. Their careless air and assurance a good deal disconcerted me. I had scarce effrontery enough to look them in the face; and it was with great hesitation I was able to answer their compliments. My benefactress suspecting that the meanness of my dress, when compared to theirs, might be the cause of my confusion, whispered to me, that she should equip me as fine as any of them. I was indeed not a little concerned to find myself in a greasy sack, that had been cleaned and dyed till it was difficult to ascertain what colour it laid claim to, amongst people whose very deshabiles consisted of some of the richest silks that France or India could produce.

C H A P. XXIV.

Maria meets unexpectedly with an old acquaintance, who proves to be Mademoiselle Fenelon. Her adventures with father Jaquel in Holland and England.

THIS introduction had scarce taken place, when, casting my eyes round, I perceived one of my fellow boarders, whose attention seemed completely fixed upon me; and when I looked towards her she blushed, and appeared much confused: methought I recollected something of her features, and the more I examined her the more I was convinced that I was not mistaken; and I was resolved to profit of the first opportunity that offered to satisfy myself. One soon presented; for having observed this young lady go towards the garden, I followed her, when, upon comparing notes, we found ourselves to be old acquaintances, and that we had been fellow-boarders under the same roof long before, in more propitious days. Do you not, Miss Brown, recollect Mademoiselle Fenelon? At this expression I flew to her, and, grasping her in my arms, expressed my surprise
and

and happiness in meeting with such an agreeable acquaintance, at so unexpected a time, and so extraordinary a place. She eagerly enquired, what accident had brought me here? I run over so much of my life as was necessary to satisfy her curiosity, carefully omitting, however, that part which proved my weakness and Fitzherbert's triumph. She seemed sincerely to lament my fate, and sympathise at my misfortunes. I begged of her, in return, to inform me how fortune had behaved towards her, and whether she had as much reason to complain of the blind goddess as myself? To this she readily consented, and entered into the following detail.

“ I have no occasion, said she, to remind
 “ you of the misfortune that befell me at
 “ the convent at Douay, where we passed
 “ so many innocent and agreeable hours ;
 “ nor, perhaps, to acquaint you that father
 “ Jaquel was one of the most hypocritic
 “ villains that ever disgraced the ecclesiastical
 “ function ; nothing but the tenderness
 “ of your years protected you from
 “ his villainous designs, and nothing but
 “ the advanced age of Madam Abbess prevented
 “ her dishonour being equally manifested
 “ with my own. Miss Fleetwood
 G 3 “ escaped

“ escaped by miracle, for had I not been
 “ so suddenly and unexpectedly delivered,
 “ he had laid such a plan for possessing her,
 “ and which, to my shame be it spoken, I
 “ was to have been a principal actress in, as
 “ could not, in all probability, have failed
 “ of success. In a word, there was scarce
 “ one pensioner in the whole society with
 “ whom he did not carry on a carnal cor-
 “ respondence, if her face and person ex-
 “ cited his desires. But, upon my disho-
 “ nour and his disgrace, you know we were
 “ both obliged to decamp, and it was ne-
 “ cessary for us to leave France with all
 “ possible dispatch. He had immediately
 “ escaped into Holland, from whence he
 “ contrived to inform me, that he there
 “ waited for me, and should expect me as
 “ soon as I was in a situation to travel.
 “ You are sensible that Madam Abbess
 “ would scarce let me remain under that
 “ religious roof the usual time that women
 “ take to recover their strength after such
 “ a violent effort of nature; she obliged me
 “ to depart after the third week of my ly-
 “ ing-in, saying, the affair had already got
 “ wind, and made so much noise, that she
 “ was terrified at the consequences. As I
 “ did not dare appear before any of my
 “ relations

“ relations after such a disaster, I did not
 “ require much persuasion to follow father
 “ Jaquel into Holland; especially as I
 “ thought he was the properest person to
 “ give me advice in my future conduct,
 “ not only as my father confessor, but as
 “ that man to whom I had yielded my vir-
 “ gin heart, sacrificed my honour, and all
 “ my future happiness.

“ After travelling through Flanders, I at
 “ length arrived in Holland, and I met fa-
 “ ther Jaquel at Amsterdam in a lay-habit.
 “ I was much surpris'd at the appearance
 “ he made, as he was accoutred more like
 “ a military man than an ecclesiastic. He,
 “ perceiving my surprise, told me, “ it was
 “ necessary to conform one's-self to the
 “ custom of the country one was in; and
 “ as they were all hereticks in Holland, and
 “ looked upon a priest as a monster, for
 “ the sake of society, and to avoid scandal,
 “ it was necessary to appear no way singu-
 “ lar.” I did not pretend to contradict his
 “ prudential maxims; but, on the contrà-
 “ ry, told him, I should be guided accor-
 “ ding to his directions, and desired him
 “ to instruct me what course I should take
 “ to regain the esteem and favour of my
 “ friends? “ As to your relations and
 “ friends

“ friends (said he) you must leave them to
 “ themselves, to be reconciled to your con-
 “ duct at leisure. The prejudice of edu-
 “ cation goes a great way, and it is not the
 “ work of an hour to remove it ; they may
 “ perhaps think the slip you have made,
 “ if such it can be called, irreparable ; and,
 “ by their behaviour, they will endea-
 “ vour to render it so. It is therefore
 “ your part to counteract their evil designs,
 “ and by your future success to convince
 “ them of their error. I have, during my
 “ officiating as confessor at Douay collect-
 “ ed near thirty thousand livres, which I
 “ have taken care not to leave behind me,
 “ having from time to time placed it in the
 “ different banks of Europe, that I might
 “ always have some resource in case of an
 “ accident. I now offer you a share of my
 “ purse and fortune ; and as most of my
 “ money is placed in England, I propose
 “ soon going over thither, in order to turn
 “ it to the greater advantage. If you chuse
 “ to accompany me as my wife, you may
 “ depend upon it I shall always behave to
 “ you as such.” Though I could not help
 “ thinking that such a proposal from a pro-
 “ fessed Jesuit, and my holy father confes-
 “ sor, was somewhat inconsistent with his
 “ character,

“ character, as I imagined he understood
 “ religious matters better than me, and
 “ that, if he could reconcile his conduct
 “ with his tenets, I certainly might, who
 “ had not yet taken the veil ; and prudence
 “ at the same time pointing out to me this,
 “ as the most probable means of living in
 “ ease and affluence, I did not long hesi-
 “ tate to accept his offer.

“ From this time, then, I took upon my-
 “ self the title and character of Madam
 “ Martin, which was the name he had a-
 “ dopted. He passed for a merchant from
 “ Bourdeaux, and actually transacted busi-
 “ ness as such whilst he was in Holland.
 “ Upon his departure from hence he had
 “ recommendations from many Dutch
 “ merchants to some of the best houses in
 “ London, where we arrived a short time
 “ after. Here he took a house, furnished
 “ it in an elegant manner, hired a man in
 “ livery, and two maid servants ; we were
 “ situated in a genteel neighbourhood at
 “ the polite end of the town, and I soon
 “ made acquaintance with, and received
 “ the visits of most of the ladies in that
 “ quarter.

“ Mr. Martin repaired constantly every
 “ day to Change, and appeared in Change-

“Alley as a capital negociator for mer-
 chants abroad ; so it is not at all surpri-
 sing that he obtained a very extensive
 credit, and, of course, a great deal of
 money circulated through his hands.

“Mademoiselle Fenelon had got thus far
 in her narration, when Madam Laborde
 came to her, and told her it was time to
 dress ; I was therefore obliged to suspend
 my curiosity till a future opportunity.”

C H A P. XXV.

Continuation of Mademoiselle Fenelon's story. The infamous part Monsieur Martin begins to act. A scandalous, though common, character in the person of Madam la Touche.

I Scarce gave Mademoiselle Fenelon time to dress herself, so eager was I to know the sequel of her history ; and she seeming to be as impatient to relate it, as I was to hear it, we soon resumed our walk in the garden, and she her narration.

“I think (said she) I left off upon our
 arrival in London, where we had taken
 a house ;” upon my answering in the af-
 firmative, she then continued : “A pret-
 ty foreigner in London (you know) soon
 attracts

“ attracts the eyes of the men, especially if
 “ she appears in publick, and makes any
 “ figure. Monsieur Martin (for such I
 “ shall now continue to call him) debarred
 “ me from no pleasures nor amusements;
 “ and tho’ he did not go frequently himself
 “ to public places, I often appeared at the
 “ walks and gardens, the opera, and
 “ play-houses. In short, I was pestered
 “ with dangles whom I did not yet very
 “ well understand; tho’ I don’t in the
 “ least doubt but they said very tender
 “ things to me. It is true, some of them,
 “ who were foreigners, spoke French, and
 “ here and there one amongst them Italian;
 “ but I found there was scarce a foreigner
 “ to be met with in London, without he
 “ bore some public character, that was not
 “ either a hair-dresser, a valet-de-chambre,
 “ a cook, a dancing-master, or a Jesuit;
 “ for which reason my husband always
 “ warned me to avoid them, as keeping
 “ them company could be of no service to
 “ us, and would only tend to disgrace us.
 “ It was for this reason I had so little occasion
 “ to speak my mother-tongue, and was fre-
 “ quently compelled to talk what English
 “ I could, and by this means it soon be-
 “ came, in some measure, familiar to me.”

“ A very rich merchant, who often wal-
 “ ked with me in the Park, was the most
 “ earnest of all my lovers ; he would fre-
 “ quently make me presents, and endea-
 “ vour to talk with me alone. In one of
 “ these tête-à-tête parties he told me, “ it
 “ was a thousand pities that such a beauti-
 “ ful young lady should be united to an old
 “ fellow that might very well pass for my
 “ father ; that human nature shuddered at
 “ so disproportionate a match ; that he was
 “ sure I could not be happy ; that I was on-
 “ ly a sacrifice, as he supposed, to my pa-
 “ rents will ; that he had a heart full of
 “ sympathy and love, and a person, which
 “ he flattered himself was not disagreeable
 “ to me ; that he was sure, at least, it was
 “ more suited to mine, in point of age,
 “ than my doating husband’s.” In saying
 “ this, he forced from me a kiss à l’*Angloise*,
 “ which was the first time I was ever em-
 “ braced by any man but Monsieur Mar-
 “ tin. I blushed, and for some time had
 “ not the power to express my resentment
 “ at his expressions and behaviour ; how-
 “ ever, at length I gave him to understand
 “ that his conduct was very disagreeable to
 “ me, and that I was greatly surprised how
 “ he could have the assurance to behave so
 “ to

“ to a modest woman. He said no more
 “ for the present, except begging my par-
 “ don if he had given me any offence.

“ This happened at the island in St.
 “ James’s Park, when, upon joining an el-
 “ derly French woman, who used to attend
 “ me in these excursions, and who was an old
 “ acquaintance of Mr. Martin’s, I related
 “ to her in what manner Mr. Johnson had
 “ behaved to me. She pretended at first
 “ to be greatly surprised, but at length be-
 “ gan to apologize for his conduct, by say-
 “ ing it was the English manner; and those
 “ who had not travelled and seen the world
 “ were apt to be guilty of these mistakes,
 “ but that they meant no harm.

“ Mr. Martin the next morning appear-
 “ ed to be very dull, and, upon my enquir-
 “ ing the reason, he at length with seem-
 “ ing reluctance told me, that he had a bill
 “ of exchange drawn upon him from Am-
 “ sterdam, for six hundred pounds sterling,
 “ which would be due the next day, and
 “ that he did not know how to raise the
 “ money, as he fell quite short of cash;
 “ and concluded this information with
 “ asking me, if, among the number of my
 “ polite and rich acquaintance, I could not
 “ borrow so much? for, added he, you
 “ know

“ know there is no refusing a pretty woman any thing.

“ I answered, I believe I could have done such a thing for him four and twenty hours before ; but that I had had a little misunderstanding with one Mr. Johnson, who had taken some liberties with me that I thought were not allowable. Upon this he asked me the particulars of the affair, which I very innocently and ingenuously told him ; though he seemed not a little nettled at that part which related to himself, he stifled his resentment, in saying, “ Well, my dear, I don’t entirely approve of his conduct ; but, you know, you must turn every thing to your advantage in this life ; and if you can make this man’s folly serve your interest, even let him buoy himself up with the hopes, that you will, one time or other, make him the happy lover.

“ Such a speech from Mr. Martin stagnated my whole mass, and I was for some time unable to make any answer. That he should so coolly and dispassionately put up with so gross an insult to him and myself, was what astonished me, when the only reason of my keeping it secret from him hitherto, was my fear his jealousy

“ lousy and revenge might carry him to
 “ some fatal lengths.

“ My dear, continued he, giving me an
 “ embrace, do not imagine by what I have
 “ said that the fervor of my love is not so
 “ strong as ever ; it is revenge that excites
 “ me to put you upon this scheme : John-
 “ son ought to pay handsomely for his rash-
 “ ness and insolence. You have it in your
 “ power to make him ; besides, consider
 “ of what infinite service the money will be
 “ to me at this critical juncture.”

“ This specious method of reasoning,
 “ joined to Madam la Touche’s seconding
 “ his arguments, prevailed upon me to an-
 “ swer Mr. Johnson’s bow the next time I
 “ met him in public. This concession, on
 “ my part, he looked upon as an acquies-
 “ cence to what he had proposed, and he
 “ took every opportunity to gain upon my
 “ affection. As I had not the least passion
 “ for the man, I could hear with the ut-
 “ most indifference all his protestations ;
 “ and when he was talking vociferously of
 “ Cupid and Venus, I was thinking of his
 “ cash and bank-notes.

“ I should have told you before, that Ma-
 “ dam la Touche was neither more nor less
 “ than a private procuress, whom Mr. Mar-
 “ tin

“ tin had known abroad, and whom he
 “ thought would be a very proper person
 “ to employ in his service, as a duena or
 “ superintendant over my mercenary a-
 “ mours. To this end he had given her
 “ directions how to behave, and through
 “ her was echoed to me his good councils
 “ and instructions ; so that, by the help of
 “ this experienced and attentive monitor,
 “ I could not possibly err. She told me to
 “ give Johnson not the least liberties till
 “ such time as he had lent me at least five
 “ hundred guineas, and that the sooner I
 “ asked him for the money the better ; and
 “ that even then I was to give him nothing
 “ but promises and fair words till such
 “ time as he entered into a bond for five
 “ thousand pounds, payable on demand ;
 “ for, added she, he is as rich as Croesus,
 “ and a thousand guineas to him are not
 “ so much as ten guineas to Mr. Martin ;
 “ therefore act prudently and your fortune
 “ is made.”

C H A P. XXVI.

Conclusion of Mademoiselle Fenelon's
story.

I Could not refrain crying out in this place, what a monster! Is it possible that father Jaquel could be such an abominable wretch! “ Ah! Miss Brown, said she, have a little patience; I have not related half his good actions, his virtues are innumerable. But I must resume the thread of my story: When he found, that, notwithstanding all the hints he had given, and all the advice Madam la Touche had so plentifully bestowed, I had still made no sort of progress in the money-affair, nay that I had not so much as insinuated to Mr. Johnson that I stood in need of any, he began to treat the matter in a very different manner. Lookye, Madam, said he, if you do not absolutely contrive to meet Johnson this very day, and know positively whether he will lend it you, or no, I shall make no ceremony of sending you off to-morrow morning for France, and placing you in your father's hands, to do what he pleases
“ with

“ with you ; the consequence of which will
 “ be, that you will be shut up in a convent
 “ for life : and as I know you have not an
 “ ounce of nun’s flesh about you, I hope
 “ you will take my advice and get the mo-
 “ ney this very evening.

“ Such a menace from a man who had
 “ ever as yet treated me with the greatest
 “ tenderness, frightened me more than any
 “ thing that could have happened to me.
 “ I burst into tears, and, falling at his
 “ knees, begged he would not sacrifice me
 “ to the lewd embraces of a man I def-
 “ pised, for the sake of a little pelf ; but he
 “ remained inexorable to all my remon-
 “ strances, and, without raising me up, he
 “ turned upon his heel, and quitted the
 “ room. Madam la Touche came to me
 “ in this situation, desiring to know what
 “ was the matter : this Abigail, this female
 “ seductress, versed in all the arts of impo-
 “ sition, was well acquainted with the cause
 “ of my grief ; for heaven’s sake, child,
 “ said she, don’t cry for nothing ; Mr.
 “ Martin is a very good-natured man, tho’
 “ he is apt to be a little passionate ; wipe
 “ away your tears, I have something to
 “ communicate to you that will dissipate all
 “ your grief ; here is a letter from a lover,

“ a dying, desponding lover. Saying this,
“ she put the following billet into my hand.

“ DEAR MADAM,

“ It was with inexpressible joy and ex-
“ tasy that I received your dear letter; and
“ you may depend upon it, as you ac-
“ quaint me Mr. Martin will certainly be
“ out of the way, that I will wait upon you
“ punctually at four.

“ Your impatient adorer,

William Johnson.”

“ Good Gods! what was my surprise at
“ reading these contents, and on looking at
“ the superscription, which was to Madam
“ Martin! Bless me, Madam, said I to Ma-
“ dam la Touche, surely this is some mis-
“ take; I never wrote a line to Mr. John-
“ son in my life! “ Pshah, answered she,
“ never mind that, you ignorant girl; sup-
“ pose a friend has done a good office for
“ you, ought you not to thank her?” I
“ had not time to reply before I heard a
“ rap at the door, and, without my leave,
“ saw Mr. Johnson enter.

“ He run to me, and, clasping me in his
“ arms, methought would have devoured
“ me

“ me with kisses, which I repaid with a
 “ flood of tears. He was greatly surprised
 “ at my grief, and intreated me to let him
 “ know the cause. I saw I was sacrificed,
 “ but my pride would not let me own it
 “ to him; and that same pride urged me
 “ for the first time to dissemble. His ques-
 “ tions and intreaty forced me to reply,
 “ and my imagination, amidst all my for-
 “ row, pointed out to me that this was the
 “ lucky moment I was to improve. “ Why,
 “ really, Sir, said I, to be ingenuous, the
 “ cause of my sending for you to-day, is to
 “ impart a secret which I dare not intrust
 “ with any one but yourself, so great is my
 “ opinion of your sincerity. “ Pray, Ma-
 “ dam, said he with emotion, what is it?
 “ My fortune and life are at your service,
 “ if they can be of any use to you.” So
 “ gallant a reply gave me fresh courage.
 “ Why then, Sir, said I, since you are so po-
 “ lite, I must tell you: I had last night the
 “ misfortune to lose 500 guineas with Ba-
 “ ron du Bos, the ——— Minister, and I
 “ dare not acquaint my husband with it;
 “ if you would favour me with the loan of
 “ as much, you may depend upon my re-
 “ paying you the first opportunity, as I
 “ would prefer laying under an obligation

“ to

" to an Englishman rather than a foreigner.
 " Madam, he answered, I am thoroughly
 " sensible of the compliment you pay our
 " nation ; and I esteem it a particular ho-
 " nour to have this opportunity of convin-
 " cing you of my friendship." In saying
 " this, he laid down bank-notes to the a-
 " mount of a thousand pounds, adding,
 " he begged I would try *his* luck with the
 " remainder, and see if I could not get
 " home upon the Baron."

" So much civility really staggered me ;
 " the obliging manner in which he pre-
 " sented the notes gave me the highest
 " opinion of his generosity, and I found he
 " had stole insensibly upon my affections.
 " This visit, tho' so important, was very
 " short ; but I promised to meet him the
 " next afternoon, all alone, in the Bird-
 " cage Walk.

" Monsieur Martin gave a most signifi-
 " cant grin at the sight of the notes, saying,
 " I was a good girl, and should have a new
 " gown for my pains. " But, pray now
 " (said he) tell me the truth, which do you
 " like best, Johnson or me ? for it is needless
 " to deny it. I know a man won't part
 " with his money for nothing."

" It

“ It was in vain to urge my innocence ;
 “ the more I said to prove it, the more I
 “ convinced him of my endeavouring to
 “ deceive him ; so that, after an hour’s al-
 “ tercation, I retired to rest with a heavy
 “ heart, which vented itself in a stream of
 “ cordial tears.

“ I would willingly have declined going
 “ the next day, notwithstanding my ap-
 “ pointment, and even told Mr. Martin,
 “ that, since I found he was of so jealous a
 “ disposition, and that there was no con-
 “ vincing him of one’s innocence, I would
 “ at least contrive to avoid seeing Mr.
 “ Johnson any more ; but, heavens ! what
 “ was his reply ? “ Pshah ; you fool, you
 “ cannot do more than you have done ;
 “ perhaps, if you please him as well to-day,
 “ he may throw another thousand into
 “ your lap.”

“ This speech of Mr. Martin’s had more
 “ effect in accomplishing Mr. Johnson’s
 “ designs, than all the arguments the latter
 “ had ever used ; for, since I found I was
 “ looked upon equally guilty as if I had
 “ actually consented, I began to think it
 “ was a matter of little consequence whe-
 “ ther I yielded or no. Add to this, I con-
 “ sidered

“sidered my gratifying Johnson, at this
 “time, as a kind of revenge for Martin’s
 “ill treatment ; so that I met him with dis-
 “positions as agreeable to his purpose as he
 “could well desire. Nor was he backward
 “in using his utmost addresses, to obtain
 “what I granted him before my return.

“Thus then was I clandestinely sacri-
 “ficed to prostitution by my father con-
 “fessor, and my pretended husband. The
 “correspondence between me and Johnson
 “continued many months, with the appro-
 “bation of the honest Jesuit, who, tasting
 “the sweets that flowed from it, highly
 “applauded Johnson’s generosity ; as well
 “he might, since in the course of fifteen
 “months I drained him of near five thou-
 “sand pounds. At the end of this time
 “he was declared a bankrupt.

“Though I had procured Monsieur
 “Martin so considerable a sum within so
 “short a time, his natural extravagance,
 “joined to the presents he made to Madam
 “la Touche, who claimed a share in the
 “spoils ; we were not much richer at the
 “end of that period by all our gains ; so
 “that he was planning new projects for
 “raising supplies, at the price of my pro-
 “stitution.

" titution. After what had passed between
 " me and Johnson, he thought there was
 " no necessity for mincing matters, and he
 " now frankly told me, " he had a Colo-
 " nel in his eye for me ; that, however, he
 " was afraid he would not pay so well as
 " Johnson ; but that he had an after-game
 " to play upon him."

" Mrs. la Touche was accordingly en-
 " gaged to bring us together : the Colo-
 " nel's face I recollected very well, he had
 " frequently dangled after me at Vauxhall
 " and Marybone ; but had never till now
 " opened his lips upon the score of love,
 " or any thing else. He made me a pre-
 " sent of only a fifty pound note the first
 " time he visited me ; which so irritated
 " Monsieur Martin, that he resolved to
 " give him no farther quarter, but to play
 " his after-game upon him as soon as possi-
 " ble. He placed Madam la Touche and
 " another female in a closet, where they de-
 " signedly made the Colonel discover them
 " by coughing loud, after the Colonel had
 " paid his devotions to me upon the altar
 " of Venus. The Colonel took the alarm,
 " and, judging of their business, he com-
 " pounded matters for five hundred
 " pounds

“ pounds with Martin, to avoid having
 “ them canvassed in a court of justice for
 “ *crim. con.* as he was himself a married
 “ man.

“ Notwithstanding all this success in my
 “ profession, Monsieur Martin soon failed
 “ for 15,000 l. and he decamped for Hol-
 “ land, leaving me and his creditors to
 “ share his household furniture. He wrote
 “ me a letter from Rotterdam, telling me
 “ that he should soon return to England,
 “ and settle his affairs. But I never set
 “ eyes upon him afterwards.

“ I have since that time shared all the
 “ vicissitudes of an unhappy woman. I
 “ was brought to Paris by an English No-
 “ bleman, who, dying soon after, left me
 “ here destitute; and Madam la Borde has
 “ been kind enough to admit me amongst
 “ the number of her pensioners.”

C H A P. XXVII.

Some insights into Maria's present situa-
 tion. A descriptive portrait of a female
 gladiating repast, done from the life.

MADEMOISELLE Fenelon finished her
 story very abruptly, without giving
 Vol. I. H me

me an opportunity of being acquainted with the footing which we were upon at Madam la Borde's; and my curiosity was all this time excited to know what kind of business it was in which I was to be admitted a partner. The gay appearance of my companions highly astonished me; I could not conceive in what manner they were able to support the expence they must necessarily make. Whilst I was thus rack-ing my imagination to explain these mysteries, we were called to dinner, and the soup was served: the repast was nothing extraordinary, but the quick circulation of the glass appeared greatly so to me, and its effects soon manifested themselves; for the first course was scarcely removed before two of our boarders, whom the fumes of wine began now to operate upon, fell to boxing across the table. In an instant the table, plates, ragouts and sauces were overturned upon the floor; and now, that they had no interruption to get at each other, a regular Broughtonian match ensued, their handkerchiefs, caps and ribbons wantoned in the air, and bloody noses began to stream. The mistress thought it was high time for her to interpose her authority;

thority; but in the conflict receiving a severe blow upon the eye, which was a kind of compliment she did not expect, her pacific intentions were instantly changed to a hostile charge upon her assailant, and she gave very convincing proofs of her skill in the athletic art. The other two boarders, who had till now observed a strict neutrality, imagined they had been long enough idle spectators, and now followed the example of their companions, so that this soon became a general action.

For my part, I had from the first dawn of this rupture retired in great consternation to a corner of the room, without once attempting to move during this Amazonian conflict.

Here was a scene for Hogarth to paint! Five women, more resembling furies than human beings, with dishevelled hair and bloody faces, bruising, swearing, cursing, scratching, biting, puking, screaming, and with scarce a rag of cloaths to cover their nakedness, which in this present situation would have been visible in spite of dress. One who had got her antagonist down, rubbing her nose in a ragout; another, with

her

her coats over her head, and an andouille between her legs, calling out upon the Virgin Mary to preserve her in her present danger ; the old lady swearing immediate destruction to them all, for assaulting her. In this critical situation, the combatants still in the heat of action, which was not likely to be of short duration, a veteran female, who seemed to have served many an apprenticeship in the family, announced the arrival of a German Baron. This was a visitor of too much consequence, not to procure an instantaneous cessation of hostilities. The heroines immediately disengaged, to search for their caps, ribbons, ruffles, and petticoats, with which they flew to their respective apartments ; whilst the hostess, who had made a precipitate retreat, after having wiped her face, and restored herself to the best appearance she was able in so short a time, went to amuse the Baron, till the ladies were in a condition to receive company.



END of the FIRST VOLUME.

